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Baker, Kozyrev Discuss Nuclear Disarmament

LD1103200192 Moscow TASS in English 1925 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Yuriy Sidorov, Valeriy Shashkov, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Brussels March 11 TASS—The talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker which lasted over four hours in Brussels on Wednesday [11 March], went far above the schedule.

After the talks Kozyrev told journalists, who came to the Russian embassy in the Belgian capital, that the two ministers "managed to discuss the whole agenda of our bilateral relations, and made the first attempt to reach the level of disarmament initiatives, set forth by our presidents. The point was to impart a concrete meaning to the Camp David declaration, with both of us acting as friends and allies."

The minister noted with satisfaction, that judging by the talks, the sides would be able to prepare a comprehensive summit which might yield an unusually big number of results. The Russian-U.S. summit will be held in Washington in June.

For his part, Baker said that during the frank discussions he had with Kozyrev, they really discussed a wide range of issues, including strategic weapons. The ministers were not able to reach a final agreement on the issue, but specified a number of details as regards the proposals put forward by Presidents George Bush and Boris Yeltsin, according to Baker.

In reply to a question on Nagorno-Karabakh, the Russian minister said Baker supports the mediatory mission of Russia in the settlement of the conflict.

Kozyrev believes that the United Nations and the U.N. Security Council are precisely the instruments called upon to quickly and effectively respond to such problems. "We can not allow further build-up of destabilising weapons, especially in the Middle East, the region which is overfilled with them already today," Kozyrev said.

U.S. Senate Group Investigates Nuclear Issues

LD0603203192 Moscow TASS in English 1318 GMT 6 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow March 6 TASS—Russia remains a world power and an equal partner and the United States wants to maintain good, business relations with it, according to a group of U.S. senators, who arrived in the Russian capital today.

The U.S. delegation led by Senate Armed Forces Committee Chairman Sam Nunn is in Russia on a fact-finding mission following the passage of a congressional bill allocating 400 million dollars for expediting the dismantling of nuclear warheads in the Commonwealth of Independent States. U.S. lawmakers will meet Russian leaders and officials from parliamentary committees, the defence ministry and other agencies to discuss arms cuts.

The delegates will also study Russia's programmes to convert military industries to civilian uses.

Meets CIS General Staff Chief

LD0803180192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1145 GMT 7 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow, 7 March (TASS)—A delegation of U.S. senators in Moscow headed by Sam Nunn, chairman of the U.S. Congress Senate Armed Services Committee, had a meeting today with Colonel General Viktor Samsonov, chief of General Staff of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the press center of the CIS Joint Armed Forces that they discussed issues concerning the current state and prospects for the development of the Commonwealth Armed Forces, problems of ensuring reliable security for nuclear weapons on the territory of the former Union, and other questions of mutual interest.

The main aim of the group of U.S. senators' visit to Russia is to discuss cuts in weapons of mass destruction with the country's leadership. This is linked with a law, recently passed by the U.S. Congress, allocating 400 million dollars to speed up the safe elimination of nuclear devices in the CIS countries.

The delegation was also received by Russian Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar today.

Rutskoy Rules Out Nuclear Arms Use in Caucasus

LD1103191292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Interview with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy by correspondent Grigoyev; place and date not given; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Rutskoy] Transcaucasian Military District troops should be immediately withdrawn from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. Those are sovereign states: sovereign Azerbaijan, sovereign Armenia, sovereign Georgia. Let them sort it out between themselves. But it is high time we stopped making the Armed Forces hostage. Accordingly, I sent a telegram to [Armenian President] Ter-Petrosyan today. Maybe it was a rather rigid telegram that demanded that the hostages be released immediately. The hostages are still alive.

[Grigoryev] Are there any nuclear weapons in Armenia and Azerbaijan?

[Rutskoy] Of course there are. But I am 100-percent certain that the fact that these weapons may be accessed or used can virtually be ruled out.

[Grigoryev] So in other words the danger of them being seized is ruled out?

[Rutskoy] Yes, it is ruled out. Relevant instructions are already in place there and will not allow that to happen.

General Says No Nuclear Arms in Caucasus

OW1203113492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1039 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The declaration of Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy about nuclear weapons in the former Soviet republics of Transcaucasus indicates the lack of agreement in the functioning of two agencies: the office of the vice-president and the chief command of the Joint Armed Forces. The opinion was expressed by the deputy chief of the Main Department of the Joint Armed Forces Lieutenant-General Vladimir Korotkov. He expressed readiness to report to the vice-president exact data about the places of storage and the schedule of withdrawal of nuclear weapons from the Transcaucasian military district.

General Korotkov assured that the last nuclear charges were removed from Transcaucasia in summer 1990.

Businessmen Attempt To Sell Nuclear Materials

LD1203101292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0530 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Loskutov]

[Text] Oslo, 12 March (TASS)—The attempt by Russian businessmen to sell heavy water and other materials which could be used to manufacture nuclear weaponry—this is no newspaper spoof but terrible reality. This is the conclusion arrived at by BERGENS TIDENDE, which several days ago was one of the first to report the existence of these plans.

Continuing its own investigations, on 10 March the paper published a copy of a telegram from Volgograd which was received by fax at a Norwegian firm with an offer and detailed terms of sale. The contents of the telegram are evidence that businessmen from southern Russia know their way around in the kind of deal they envisage. They intend to sell the heavy water on which two reactors—taken out of service two years ago in the area of Volgograd—operated. Six to eight tons of this strategic raw material at a price of around $460 per kg are being offered to be sent to Murmansk and then to Norway.

Moreover, the Volgograd dealers also are prepared to dump red mercury at $240,000 per kg. It was planned to deliver it to Norway via Vienna in consignments of 5 kg in the second and third quarters of this year.

In the opinion of Norwegian experts, the goods offered are important components used for the creation of nuclear weaponry. Six to eight tons of heavy water is sufficient for the operation of a reactor producing nuclear fuel. To build such a reactor now does not require the most advanced technology, and moreover many unemployed, highly skilled experts from the former Soviet Union have appeared on the labor market, BERGENS TIDENDE reports.

The paper does not name the Norwegian firm, reporting only that it has previous connections with Russia. Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg was informed of this episode—which the Norwegian police and counterintelligence have been working on—two weeks ago. The Norwegian side, however, did not raise this question in the course of the 8 March visit to Norway by Andrey Kozyrev, the foreign minister of the Russian Federation.

Uncertainty Prompts Submariners To Resign

PM1103113892 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 3

["Third" and "final" part of article by Viktor Litovkin: "Three Days on the Typhoon"; for the first and second parts see the 11 March Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT pages 2-6]

[Text] **3. Cracks in the Nuclear Shield**

I met with Captain 3d Rank Yevgeniy Filippov, commander of the survivability division [divizion zhivuchesti], in the neurology department of the hospital.

A very intelligent officer, they had told me, he graduated from the higher military school with distinction, and a lot of things on the ship rely on him. But the captain is trying as hard as he can to get a discharge.

"I am sick of it all," he said. "Service means no rights, only responsibility and nothing but duties. And no one wants to help you to carry them out. Take a trivial example, for instance—the device for throwing waste containers overboard has broken. How do you get it fixed? You cannot afford to wait for civilian experts, and as for spare parts and tools—no, they do not get delivered to the boat. You manage as best you can. But you cannot go to sea with a fault like that."

Yevgeniy is responsible for the ship's safety devices. There are rubber life rafts on the boat, kept in sealed containers. But the containers are sealed only in name—it is a design feature that, during independent cruising, sea water keeps getting into.

The rubber spoils and perishes. But replacing a life raft or writing it off is a whole problem in itself. You have to

collect hundreds of documents, go to Murmansk and back five or six times with a 90-kg package... And even then there is no guarantee that you will get the raft replaced. Yet it is supposed to offer the submariners hope of survival in an emergency.

"Just look at the alcohol situation," Yevgeniy said. "My division alone is down for a statutory 90 kg per month. There is automatic machinery, electronics everywhere—contacts need wiping regularly. God forbid that we should get a short circuit—we would burn like matches in a box. But they issue us with at most 10 kg... Then there are the missile control panels..."

Filippov has been on the boat nine years now. He has no apartment and nowhere to go. Fortunately, he is unmarried and can go back to Ulyanovsk, to his mother. But he does not expect to find work there in his speciality—he is a shipbuilding engineer. He will have to start again from scratch. But he is prepared to do that.

"I want to be responsible only for myself," he said, "self-reliant, relying on my own capabilities."

"You see," he added, "my nerves cannot take it anymore. I cannot be responsible for something that is beyond my control, in particular people's lives, the boat. I no longer want to be in the position of a serf, when they will not even let you go to study at the academy, because allegedly they cannot replace you..."

Captain-Lieutenant Aleksandr Savichev, commander of the electronic services group, has another reason for resigning. He has discovered he has business acumen.

"Life has changed dramatically," the captain-lieutenant explained. "In civilian life there are now extensive opportunities for expressing yourself in a new way, for earning big money... Although it is not actually a matter of rubles and the quantity of rubles. Now there is freedom of choice, freedom to take a risk, to gamble, of which I am utterly deprived in the Navy."

Aleksandr has organized his own business. His wife already has a store selling automobile spare parts in Zapadnaya Litsa. Her brother has access to plants producing them. They formed a limited association, registered it, opened a bank account, and concluded contracts with enterprises. The operation appears to have taken off.

In the north people have money. Many have Zhiguli cars, so the store has excellent prospects. Aleksandr is not put off by the fact that he is living in a closed city—there could be problems getting commercial freight through.

"Civil authority and military authority are separate in Zapadnaya Litsa at the moment. There is a mass of ways of resolving our problems amicably and legally."

Captain 3d Rank Vladimir Pavlov, commander of command department no 2 and "head keeper" of the Typhoon's strategic missiles, is also taking the business route. He is from Voronezh and is married with two children.

"I am leaving the Navy for purely economic reasons," he said. "Unless I get a grip on my own future now, my children will be poor like me."

We were talking with him and his wife, Irina, in a comfortable apartment with furniture, carpets, and a color television.

"It is not my apartment," Vladimir said, "and I do not intend to end up spending my old age in the Arctic, like many of our pensioners do, because they have nowhere to go. I do not want to have to ask for an apartment and spend 10-15 years waiting for one; I want to earn money and buy one."

Pavlov intends to be a traveling salesman. To bring television sets, electric meat grinders, food mixers, and other domestic electrical goods to the Arctic and sell them. Competing with the commissary does not put him off, in fact it is an incentive.

"Our commissary is a monopoly," the captain 3d rank said. "It slaps on a 45 percent markup and everyone grumbles, but buys all the same. Because there is nowhere else to go. And everything is geared to scarcities. The commissary's warehouses are more heavily guarded than the arsenals of torpedoes and missiles. But we will trade openly and honestly and bring prices down—people will come to us."

His wife is studying typewriting and bookkeeping. She is not apprehensive about her husband's change of direction, nor is she frightened by the vagaries of the market, which Vladimir intends to plunge into.

"At any rate," she said, "I will not have the torment of his spending three or four months at a time at sea, as he does at the moment. The boats are terribly undermanned and the crews inexperienced. Even I, a woman, know that. Now I need not worry: He is on dry land and he will get some help, if..."

"On the other hand," Irina added, "if specialists like my Volodya, experienced, reliable people, leave the Navy, leave boats like the Typhoon, it means something is amiss and the state must sound the alarm—cracks have appeared in its nuclear shield."

I am not going to comment on what the officer's wife said, question her words, put it down to a woman's emotional reaction—I report everything as I heard it. But what Pavlov's subordinate—Captain-Lieutenant Oleg Basyuk—told me gives me food for thought.

"Unprecedented changes are taking place in the Army and Navy today, you see," he said, "particularly in the officer's mentality. He is ceasing to feel that he is a serviceman, a state official, someone supported by that state. We military people, we all used to feel dependent: We would expect our salaries to be raised, to be given an

apartment; we would expect a commander—a representative of that state—to be nominated for promotion, put forward for the next rank up, released to attend the academy... I do not know whether it is good or bad, but these expectations were often borne out: Someone would make it to admiral, most would get an apartment to go with their pension... There is none of that now. No one is giving any guarantees. People are sick of everything. No one wants to have to wait and hope for politicians to agree. So it is resign and get the hell out of this service..."

Oleg has not submitted his resignation to the commander, but he is confused.

"I am a Ukrainian, from near Kirovograd," he said. "My wife is Russian, from Leningrad. No way would she go to Ukraine, and I am not going to abandon my family. Russia is home, too."

"I love the service and I want to serve," the captain-lieutenant continued, "and, as a military man, I will make no secret of the fact that I want to make a career of it, become a commander of a large boat like the Typhoon. But there will never be boats like that in Ukraine, in the Black Sea. While in Russia—I do not know whether they would appoint someone from another state commander of a strategic submarine."

The legal, economic, social, and any other uncertainty is the biggest problem, which is like rust, eating away at the Army and Navy, making an officer's future unpredictable, and jeopardizing the well-being of his family.

"Can the CIS presidents really not agree whether they need a strategic navy or not?" an angry Captain 3d Rank Vladimir Pecheritsa said. "If not, then tell us frankly: Look for other work, guys—we will find it. If they do need it, then they should treat us as human beings, issue laws, provide guarantees: For example, serve 20-25 years and you will get apartments in this or that place by the time you get your pension... We need just one thing more: While playing their political games they should not forget about the people and gamble away our futures in the struggle for power."

Our conversation took place two days after 14 February, when in Minsk the Commonwealth heads of state were to have adopted a package of acts on the Armed Forces. The Typhoon's crew members were very hopeful, but the result was a disappointment to them.

"The Navy used to be based on strict discipline and ideology," a colleague of Pecheritsa's, Captain 3d Rank Vasiliy Bogdanenko, commander of the electronics division, said, "now all that has collapsed. What has taken its place? Nothing."

Bogdanenko has not yet decided whether to resign or not. He has two children and his wife does not work, like the majority of garrison women. But in Chernigov Oblast, in the city of Oster, he has a mother who is a pensioner. The stove in her home burns coal, but there is no one to bring it. He cannot send his mother the money to hire people, either. The mail will not accept more than 500 rubles [R], moreover, here, in the north, they are not issuing coupons, without which the ruble does not count as money in Ukraine.

"The only thing that keeps me on the boat is the fact that I am uncertain whether anyone will be able to use me in civilian life," Vasiliy said. "Although I came out of training school with a gold medal and my speciality has universal applications, there have been some offers from joint ventures. But there is still the slender hope that our leaders are on the point of reaching an agreement and there will be changes for the better..."

"But on top of that," the captain 3d class continued, "we—Pecheritsa, me, Vitya Tkachev, Captain 1st Rank Zakatov, Senior Warrant Officers Lutskiy, Borolenkov, Cheban...—we were all members of the Typhoon's first crew. We built it and launched it—it is like a child to us. Our names are engraved on the copper plate in the wardroom. How can we erase all that from our lives, how can we throw it all away and leave?"

I remember a conversation with boat commander Captain 1st Rank Sergey Yefimenko.

"Indeed, service is very difficult these days, it is very difficult managing people," he said. "But if they were to say to me, the commander: go to sea with the incomplete crew you have at the moment, I would accept the responsibility and agree to go. If I have to shoot I will shoot. But tell me: Does anyone still want me to? Does my Fatherland, Russia, want it?.."

...Let me reveal the final secret associated with my visit to the Typhoon. We received permission to visit the top-secret boat at the beginning of February, but they advised us at the Navy Main Headqarters to delay our trip to Nerpichya Bay.

"The submarine is scheduled to be at sea on 15-16 February," we were told, "and you journalists will have much more to write about if you are among the crew at that time, if you dive with them."

Our Typhoon did not put out to sea. Its four brothers, not counting the one that is being overhauled, also stayed put. I will not give the reasons. They are obvious.

Russia, Cuba Discuss Finishing Nuclear Plant

OW1103163692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1406 GMT 11 Mar 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature "by diplomatic correspondents M. Mayorov, I. Porshnev and others"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia intends to conclude the construction of a nuclear-power plant in Jaragua, Cuba. According to information DP [Diplomatic Panorama] received at Russia's Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Nuclear-Power Engineering, this issue is under discussion at the

talks in Moscow with a Cuban delegation led by Enrique Melendez, chairman of the State Committee for External Economic Ties.

E. Melendez conferred with Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar. At their talks in Russia's Ministry of External Economic Relations, the two sides are discussing a continuation of Russia's participation in the building of a number of facilities in Cuba, such as the nuclear-power plant in Jaragua. As DP's correspondent was told, Russia and Cuba expressed interest in continuing this kind of cooperation, but on a new economic basis.

Participants in the talks are trying to find the ways to overcome the financial and technical difficulties that emerged during the construction of the nuclear-power plant. As DP was told at the Ministry of Nuclear-Power Engineering, Russia proceeds from the assumption that Cuba must shoulder in the future all hard-currency expenses connected with the project. For instance, an automatic system for monitoring the technological process might be purchased from the German company "Siemens" with funds Cuba will get from its own sources. The two sides are to discuss in more detail the prospects for concluding the construction of the plant in Jaragua during a visit to Cuba by a group of Russian experts led by Yevgeniy Reshetnikov, deputy minister of nuclear-power engineering. The visit is scheduled for March 26.

DPRK Envoy on 'Secret' Nuclear Depot in ROK

SK1203034992 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Report on news conference by Son Song-pil, DPRK ambassador to Russia, at the DPRK Embassy in Moscow on 9 March; from the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] A thief is shouting "Stop, thief!" Seoul's position on the nuclear issue was so described at a news conference that took place at the DPRK Embassy in Moscow on 9 March. Speaking to reporters from CIS media, Ambassador Son Song-pil explained this description using a newly disclosed fact.

First, this statement is related to a recent statement by Chong Chu-yong, former honorary chairman of Hyundai Group and president of the Unification National Party. He said in Seoul that Hyundai Group had participated in a project to build a secret depot for storing U.S. nuclear shells. This statement gave a basis for the DPRK to doubt the completion of the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from the ROK and to denounce the ROK for trying to frighten its people about the nuclear threat from the North. At the same time, this assessment of the ROK's (?commercial) activities is the DPRK's response to the campaign by the United States and the ROK to speed up the DPRK's ratification of the nuclear safeguards accord signed with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. This ratification will make it possible for the IAEA to inspect nuclear facilities in North Korea.

In this way, Pyongyang reconfirmed that it would not tolerate any pressure to speed up the opening of Pyongyang's nuclear facilities to international inspection. Son Song-pil, DPRK ambassador to Russia, said:

[Begin Son Song-pil recording] The South Korean authorities have proposed that the trial inspection of one or two facilities in the North and South be conducted first. This proposal has become meaningless.

We and the South Korean authorities released the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. However, the South Korean authorities have declined to fully implement this declaration but continuously insisted that the North and South select one or two facilities and conduct trial inspections of them. This [secret nuclear depot construction project] more clearly shows why, even after the North and South adopted the agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration, the South Korean authorities have accused us of building nuclear weapons, why they have babbled that they cannot implement the agreements, and why they loudly babbled that they would impose sanctions on us.

This also clearly shows why, even while keeping the U.S. nuclear depot hidden in South Korea, they have found fault with us and continuously alleged that we are building nuclear weapons, and why they have continuously insisted that all the problems be solved through trial inspection.

Because it was revealed that there is a secret depot for storing U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea, we demand that overall inspection of the U.S. forces and nuclear bases be conducted, not a trial inspection of one or two facilities, as the South Korean authorities have insisted. [end recording]

Referring to the DPRK's ratification of the nuclear safeguards accord, Ambassador Son Song-pil said:

[Begin recording] The third session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly will take place on 8 April, and the ratification of the nuclear safeguards accord will be formally deliberated there. Upon deliberation, we will officially notify the IAEA that the nuclear safeguards accord will become effective. Upon notification, the nuclear safeguards accord will be effective in our country, and the nuclear inspection of us by the IAEA can be conducted on dates and according to procedures to be agreed on between us and the IAEA. [end recording]

Finally, we recall that the IAEA has no authority to inspect the U.S. military bases in the ROK: The North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee can do so. The North-South Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization

of the Korean Peninsula contains a clause on this committee's formation. Discussions have been under way to implement this declaration.

Radioactive Waste Burial Site Studied

LD1103224692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0600 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] The defense of a feasibility study for the construction of a regional burial site for solid radioactive waste has taken place in the Murmansk Maritime Shipping Line. Here is our correspondent Yuriy Arkhipov with the details.

[Arkhipov] There has long been talk of the need to construct a regional burial site for radioactive waste. Murmansk has hosted several previous meetings of scientists from St. Petersburg and Moscow who have brought concepts for the construction of a regional burial site to include the full cycle of waste processing and presented them for judgment by deputies of the oblast soviet of People's Deputies, ecologists, and inhabitants of the city. At one time, a competition was even announced for the best design of a burial site, but matters went no further than that.

And then the Murmansk Maritime Shipping Line, together with the Northern Fleet, asked the Moscow Industrial Technology Research Institute to prepare a feasibility study for the construction on Novaya Zemlya of a regional burial site for solid radioactive waste, using a shaft bored in the permafrost for underground nuclear explosions. In accordance with an agreement reached earlier between the clients and the research institute, the feasibility study was drawn up and presented to specialists of the Murmansk Maritime Shipping Line and to the military in March this year.

If the work begun by the military and by the Shipping Line's specialists and by scientists meets with success, then after the plan for the burial site on Novaya Zemlya has been confirmed, construction will begin of some premises for the radiation safety service and operating personnel. Naturally, a road and moorings will also be built. The necessary work will be carried out to prepare the shaft for storing radioactive waste.

While they were defending the feasibility study, the scientists were asked why they insist on building the burial site on Novaya Zemlya. According to them it is only there, on Novaya Zemlya, that such a complicated construction will be in accord with International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] demands. Their arguments are simple. There is permafrost on the archipelago and this guarantees that water—the main enemy of radioactive waste—will not get into the burial site. And the second point is that there are no native inhabitants there. The presence of these two factors makes it possible to fulfill IAEA conditions.

In spite of the fact that a competition was announced, that a feasibility study was prepared and confirmed by the clients, the fate of the burial site of solid radioactive waste has not been decided. Fearing that all the work done by the scientists will be useless, representatives of the Murmansk Maritime Shipping Line set off for Moscow in the hope of conveying to the Russian president the proposal to use the test site on Novaya Zemlya to construct a burial site for solid radioactive waste.

NATO Aims in Baltic Region Questioned

PM0603154592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Mar 92 p 3

[Report by Captain First Rank A. Demchenko: "NATO in the Baltic States. Nothing Special? The Cold War Has Apparently Not Thawed Out Yet, and Some People Are Writing New Scripts For It"]

[Text] While NATO countries' political leaders are assuring the public that the North Atlantic alliance is reinterpreting its role and tasks in order to get involved in cooperation and partnership with the CIS countries, all the indications are that the bloc's military leadership is continuing to live by the rules and views it assimilated back in the cold war days. This is notably manifested in its attitude to the Baltic states. NATO is guaranteeing economic and political assistance to these states on the basis of their unconditional fulfillment of NATO recommendations on military questions, and is virtually trying to dictate to Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia the basic directions of their military policy.

Thus, the foreign press has pointed out that NATO experts have recommended that these countries have numerically small armies (up to 15,000 men) equipped with state-of-the-art weapons systems and combat equipment. At the same time, it is intended that the training of the command personnel will take place in NATO military training institutions.

National brigades of rapid response troops are supposed to form the basis of the armed forces being created according to NATO's plans. It is intended that the officers' posts in these brigades will be filled by Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian nationals who are currently performing service in the bloc countries' Armed Forces or have done so in the past. It has been reported that the active phase of the formation of the brigades could start as early as this year.

Essentially the relevant bodies in the United States and other NATO countries have already started recruiting people for the command personnel. Supreme Council Deputy Chairman Krastins discussed a different approach to recruitment for the Army and the command personnel of the Latvian Ministry of Defense, for example, with Pentagon representatives during his U.S. trip at the end of 1991. It was insistently recommended to him that the Latvian deputy defense minister posts should be filled by officers with experience of service in U.S. special forces and also former USSR troops.

This, however, is not just a case of NATO officials' using organizational measures to influence the Baltic states' military policy. Side by side with this, far-reaching plans are being put forward for the use of the Baltic states' naval bases, ports, and airfields as forward basing points for formations and units of the NATO allied air and naval forces in the North European sector that are to be included in the rapid response forces.

I would remind you that the decision to draw up a program for the creation of rapid response forces in the Baltic was adopted by the NATO command in spring of 1991. In October this issue was discussed at an extended NATO Council session in Denmark, and by the end of November the basic directions of the program were already worked out. As the documents of the NATO Council session held at the end of last year in Rome say, one of its articles envisages inter alia the creation of a permanent NATO naval task force in the Baltic comprising four task groups—a strike group, a minesweeping group, an ASW group, and a light force group. The Polish naval base of Gdynia is to be used as a base. NATO would like to use Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian naval bases and ports for the replenishment of supplies, for crews' r&r, and also as a forward base whevenever there is a likelihood of an exacerbation of the situation. There are also plans envisaging that as of 1994 containers of control and communications equipment will be placed in storage depots, mainly on the territory of Latvia and Estonia, with the aim of providing for the permanent task force's operations.

The NATO command has great hopes for the air defense system that has been developed on the territory of the Baltic states. This system is being seen as the future air defense base for groups of NATO forces in the given operational sphere. That is why, as the press wrote during the same Rome NATO Council session, pressure is being exerted to include the question of transferring air defense installations in their entirety to the jurisdiction of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia on the agenda for talks on the withdrawal of Soviet troops. The latter has already announced its desire to receive the air defense forces and assets stationed on its territory, including one or two fighter-interceptor squadrons.

NATO would also like to use the territory of the three Baltic countries to stockpile stores of material and technical resources in the interests of provision for advance force groupings and also to conduct intelligence in the CIS states. It is not out of the question that this explains the position of the Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian governments vis-a-vis keeping all the elements of the infrastructure of the Northwest Group of Forces and the Baltic Fleet (dumps, bases, training centers and so on) in their possession.

Logically, the realistic dates for the actual inclusion of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia in NATO's sphere of activity would be 1994-1995, when the withdrawal of the Armed Forces of the former USSR from their territories will be completed.

In the light of these facts the notorious "Scenario 7" ("An attack by Russia on Lithuania") looks particularly odious—this is one version of the Pentagon's plans recently published by THE WASHINGTON POST. An assessment of this scenario has already been given in our press, notably in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. I recall that in accordance with this scenario Lithuania comes within the sphere of "U.S. vital interests"—interests that it is

prepared to defend by force, not even balking at large-scale warfare. Even Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Chairman V. Landsbergis was forced to publicly express his bewilderment at this "scenario."

But, after all, this is not just a question of plans and scenarios. You do not need to go far to find the facts. NATO headquarters recently announced that it will hold a training exercise called "Team Work-92" on 6-25 March; preparations for this were being made back in 1990 under the general leadership of NATO Supreme Allied Commander Admiral L. Edney.

The main aims of the upcoming training exercise, a report from the bloc headquarters said, are to check and rehearse plans for conducting offensive operations in the Atlantic and the North European sector using naval forces and marines and organizing transfers by sea in the interests of the NATO Allied Armed Forces in the theater of military operations, and to rehearse coordination between ground, naval, and air forces in the initial period of warfare. Up to 45,000 men, 170 fighting ships and auxiliary ships, and up to 300 airplanes and helicopters are to take part. Around 16,000 servicemen are to take part in the ground phase.

Naturally there is nothing particularly reprehensible in the mere fact of carrying out a planned training exercise in advance. In the final analysis, armed forces must have a high proficiency and be in a constant high degree of combat readiness. Exercises are designed to promote this. However, the traditional attitude to the "Team Work-92" exercise, which is far removed from contemporary political realities, is noticeable. So, as in previous years, the area where they are being conducted embraces the Norwegian and North Seas and northern Norway. Even if you had the most fertile imagination you would not be able to see an adversary for NATO in this area apart from Russia. The NATO command's attempts to explain the choice of area for the exercise as a desire to rehearse elements of operational and combat training in difficult Arctic conditions are clumsy. Obviously that is not the point. High-ranking U.S. Admiral R. Kelly expressed this frankly when he stated in an interview with the SEA POWER periodical in December 1991: The Navy of the former USSR is the only navy that can challenge the United States on the high seas. The fact remains that this continues to pose the only deadly threat to the United States."

By citing facts about the generally unpublicized activity of the NATO military leadership, the author did not by any means want to frighten the readers with another "threat from the West." His aim was to focus attention on something we have completely lost sight of; a considered approach in assessing the real military-political situation in the world and also questions of the building of the Commonwealth's defense in general, and that of Russia in particular.

Ukrainian Minister on NATO Council Meeting

LD1003212492 Moscow TASS in English 2108 GMT 10 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yuriy Sidorov, Valeriy Shashkov and Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Brussels, March 10 TASS—The creation of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council gives one more chance for the establishment of partner relations between the NATO states and countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko told the council's extraordinary session here today.

The session admitted the CIS member-countries, including Ukraine, to the North Atlantic Cooperation Council.

The Ukrainian minister informed the session on major areas of Ukrainian foreign and security policies, which, in his words, "determine the basis of its cooperation with NATO and other structures of modern Europe."

As for its foreign policy, Ukraine is an independent sovereign state, which has proclaimed itself a non-nuclear and neutral country, noted Zlenko.

As for its domestic policy, Ukraine favors the development of democracy, observation of human rights and the creation of market economy capable of providing worthy living conditions for its people.

Ukraine strives for the development of friendly relations with all democratic states, attaching prime importance to gradual complete integration with European political and economic structures. In order to achieve initial aims, Ukraine believes "its possible cooperation with NATO" will contribute to their fulfilment.

The minister stressed the workplan on the development of the dialogue, partnership and cooperation for 1992 adopted at the extraordinary council meeting not only corresponds to these goals but also "exceeds their limits" and includes other major Ukrainian issues.

Document on CSCE Confidence Building Adopted

LD1003193892 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] A new document on confidence-building measures in the military sphere was recently adopted in Vienna at the meeting of the member-states of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Our military observer was told at the CIS General Staff the range of the military confidence measures is much broader in this document than in previous similar documents. For example, this refers to a better practice of the military information exchange among the CSCE countries. The last such exchange contained information

as of 1st January, 1992. Col. (?Boris Tretyakov), the CIS General Staff's chief expert on confidence measures, said this:

The Russian delegation, he said, has prepared on time all data on the military forces in the zone of the confidence measures application. At the same time we also got information from other member-States and are analyzing it. On the whole this information meets the demands of the Vienna document of 1991. There were, however, major issues, say on some regiments and centers of the Army Aviation, as well as on the 14th Engineers' Regiment of Great Britain and the data that were not included in the exchange information. Not everything was clear with a German Army Corps, yet, said Col. (?Tretyakov), many questions may be raised by different interpretations of the provisions on information.

Today all similar problems have been practically solved. Meetings of the delegations during the talks in Vienna and visits by the groups of experts to the military units of the CSCE countries have contributed much into the matter. A group of experts of the CIS General Staff has visited Italy. For our part, we welcomed a group of experts from France. Information on the results of the group's activities was conveyed to all CSCE partners. All this has become an effective confidence building and control measure and made it possible to move even further in drafting a new document that will come into force after being adopted at the CSCE summit.

Brazil Interested in Employing Space Experts

LD1103222792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Brazil is showing great interest in CIS scientists to work for its national space program. As Brazilian papers reported on Tuesday [10 March], the Brazilian Technological Aeronautics Institute is concluding contracts with Commonwealth scientists. It is assumed that a group of 20-25 space specialists will be looked for in the CIS to sign contracts. They are expected to arrive in Brazil this year. At first the experts from the former USSR will lecture and conduct practical training, and later they will help the space program itself. According to local media, the salary of the CIS scientists will be $2.000. Commenting on the reports, a Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out that it was not a question of the scientists emigrating but of signing temporary contracts.

Military

Armed Forces' Coordination Council Meets 11 Mar

LD1103140292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 11 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The first Russian battalion, numbering 900 men, is preparing to leave for Yugoslavia as part of the UN mission in that country. Among the military, the attitude to this action is not cut and dried. But it was a different matter that was discussed today at the Coordination Council of Officers' Assemblies of the Joint CIS Armed Forces. The army is faced with too many questions. Our correspondent has just reported that although attention was paid to army problems at the last meeting of heads of states of the CIS, nevertheless, it was stressed at the conference that they were not paid enough attention. The situation of servicemen continues to worsen, attempts continue in various regions to involve the army in interethnic conflicts, and various methods are used to take possession of the army's weapons.

It was stated at the conference that on the threshold of cuts in the army one should expect the appearance of masses of unemployed and homeless people. All of these problems, Coordination Council members believe, should be examined by the heads of CIS states at the next meeting in Kiev. Moscow's mayor [Popov], who was invited to the conference, spoke about what is being done in the capital in order, at least in some way, to ease servicemen's situation.

Believe it or not, it was reported at the conference that Eduard Shevardnadze had reported on the phone on the decisions taken in Georgia. He requested that troops should not be withdrawn from the republic and gave assurances that every effort will be made in Georgia to provide servicemen with everything they need. The conference continues its work tomorrow.

Shevardnadze Asks For Delay

OW1103150792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, who has just been elected head of Georgia's supreme ruling body, the National Council, asked President Boris Yeltsin over the phone on Tuesday [10 March] night not to withdraw Russian troops from Georgia. Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov told that on Wednesday to a session of the Provisional Coordinating Council of the National Army Officers' Assembly.

Popov Pledges Care of Servicemen

OW1103181592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] To this day, the Russian president's supreme consultative body has not discussed either the current situation in the CIS Armed Forces, or the social guarantees to servicemen, Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov told the Coordinating Council of the All-Army Officers' Conference.

The government has no clear-cut conversion programme, said Gavriil Popov. He also noted that Yuriy Luzhkov was the member of the Moscow government in charge of conversion. To prevent the disintegration of the Moscow defence-industry's research and industrial potential, the mayor's office placed orders with them worth about 500 million roubles. More orders, worth 200 million roubles, are being considered. According to Gavriil Popov, Moscow defence enterprises employ 500,000 people.

Popov also said that at the moment, the Mayor's office and the command of the Moscow Military District were exploring the possibility of turning a military airfield in a Moscow suburb into a commercial one, which is expected to bring a big income to the Moscow treasury.

Gavriil Popov pledged to build housing for servicemen, 10,000 of whom do not have it in Moscow. Officers transferred to the reserve will be provided with cottages in Moscow suburbs.

He announced that the generals who had refused to take the oath of allegiance to the CIS states where they served would be granted permanent Moscow residence permits and provided with housing. The same referred to the families of the officers killed in action.

Speaking about the situation in Russia, Gavriil Popov said that the economic reforms had brought about positive changes. Prices no longer rise and even fell in some instances, he said. On March 10, the first report came pointing to a rise in production, he said.

He noted, however, that at the end of April and the beginning of March, prices would rise again, this time on energy and fuel, and assured the population that adequate social measures would be taken to protect the low-income groups.

Gavriil Popov gave priority to the agricultural reform and urged the servicemen transferred to the reserve to help enhance agricultural production.

Officers Urged Not To Get Involved

OW1103174292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking at a meeting of the All-Army Officers' Coordinating Council, its chairman, First Rank Captain Aleksandr Mochaykin said that currently consolidating right, left and nationalist forces are making active attempts to draw the Armed Forces into the political struggle. He urged the officers to keep civil peace.

Commenting on his participation in the Minsk summit of the Commonwealth leaders, Mochaykin noted "incomprehensible hesitation displayed by Belarus, as well as positions of Ukraine, Moldova and Azerbaijan favoring creation of their own armies fraught with the threat of a military split. He said that the Minsk summmit managed to avoid full fiasco thanks to well thought-out positions of Kazakh president Nazarabayev and Commander in Chief of the CIS Armed Forces Marshal Shaposhnikov.

Mochaykin urged the Commonwealth countries' leaders to work out legal aspects of the activities of the CIS Armed Forces' Command, the armed forces' law enforcement bodies, and to resolve the Black Sea and other fleets' problems. He also spoke in favor of a single military doctrine of the CIS.

Within the next few months the second round of the All-Army Officers' congress will take place.

More on Stolyarov Remarks on Hostage Taking

PM1203105192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Mar 92 p 1

[Report by Correspondent Major A. Yegorov followed by unattributed report and "Our correspondent" report: "Officers Are Gunmen's Hostages. Is Army Politicians' Hostage?"]

[Text] As already reported, on 8 March extremist groupings attacked an anti-aircraft missile brigade's military camp in the city of Artik near Yerevan. Armed with assault rifles they blockaded the camp's territory and, firing from vehicles and the roofs of nearby apartment blocks, they issued an ultimatum: Lay down your weapons, open your dumps, and servicemen are to leave the unit's territory.

Prior to this piratical act the garrison's officers in authority—Brigade Commander Lieutenant Colonel V. Reshetnikov; Lt. Col. V. Kolbasyuk, his deputy for weapons; Lt. Col. S. Kuznetsov, his deputy for rear services; Base Commander Lt. Col. V. Krupin; Major S. Zyuzin, deputy base commander for weapons; Maj. K. Sedov, base chief of staff; Captain V. Zhigul, deputy for rear services; Subunit Commanders Capt. T. Fedorov and Capt. S. Borkalov; and Divisional Intelligence Chief Lieutenant I. Zherebetskiy—had been invited to the city soviet on the pretext of a conference. They were all seized as hostages by fraud.

As a result of the shooting directed at the military camp, which lasted around 10 hours, two servicemen were killed and others were wounded. The firing ceased only after repeated appeals by the Seventh Guards Army command to the Armenian Republic president.

In connection with these events a news conference was held 10 March in the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command [Glavkomat] by Major General of Aviation N. Stolyarov, assistant to the commander in chief of the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces and chairman of their Committee for Work With Personnel, at which journalists were informed that on 9 March the gunmen who participated in the armed attack on the military camp issued an ultimatum demanding that within 48 hours they be issued with 5,000 each of BM-21 shells, 120 mm mortar shells, antitank grenade launcher grenades, and infantry fighting vehicle rounds; and 1 million each of 7.62 mm and 5.45 mm small arms rounds. If this demand is not met, then, according to the gunmen's statement, the 10 officers who are hostages will be executed.

Gen. Stolyarov also reported that at 1530 hours on 10 March Army commander Maj. Gen. F. Raut had a conversation with Armenian Republic President L. Ter-Petrosyan, in which the president promised to make every effort to release the hostages. On the same day in Artik at 1700 hours Moscow time a regular meeting was due to take place between deputy army commander Maj. Gen. V. Nevzorov and leaders of the military formations holding the hostages, as well as representatives of the Armenian Republic Defense Ministry.

"I consider it necessary to state the following," Stolyarov said, "the military conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh is developing into a dangerous international war. Its warring sides must understand that all protective norms under international law come into effect and responsibility ensues for breaking the rules for the conduct of war simultaneously with this. In this case the Armenian side has grossly violated Additional Protocol No. 1 to the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 on the protection of victims of international military conflicts, and Article 75 Part II of it, which runs: 'The following actions are prohibited and will remain prohibited at any time and in any place, irrespective of whether they are committed by representatives of civil or military bodies: c) the taking of hostages...'"

"Possible references to the fact that the Republic of Armenia has not signed the Geneva Convention and therefore does not bear responsibility for breaking it are groundless, since this state, like other former USSR republics, is the Union's successor according to international treaties and, furthermore, is itself a UN member with all the obligations this entails.

"The seizure of hostages and other illegal and violent acts in respect of the Armed Forces stationed in the conflict area are aimed at drawing the Army into the armed confrontation between the sides.

"On behalf of the CIS Joint Armed Forces leadership," the general went on to say, "I consider it necessary to state decisively once more that the Army does not wish

to become an instrument for resolving interstate and interethnic disputes. But it equally does not wish to and will not remain the whipping boy of political extremism and militant nationalism."

Maj. Gen. of Aviation Stolyarov briefed the journalists on the planned blockade of the locations of the bandit formations holding the hostages, in the event that the officers have not been released by the end of 10 March. The general said that this decision had been coordinated with and approved by Russian Vice President A. Rutskoy. [Yegorov ends]

The editorial office has ascertained that, by a decision of the Joint Armed Forces command, a special group flew out to Yerevan 11 March in order to accelerate the hostage release process.

Here is what the head of this group, Major General of Aviation N. Stolyarov, said to our correspondent immediately prior to his departure for Yerevan:

"From the moment it received news of the hostages' seizure," he noted, "the Joint Armed Forces command has been constantly working on this problem. The situation has been studied. Reports from the Transcaucasus Military District have been coming in continuously. Talks have been held with Armenian President L. Ter-Petrosyan. The Russian leadership has been informed of the prevailing situation. Several news conferences have been held, and the general public's attention has been drawn to what is happening.

"Furthermore, the area where the hostages are possibly located has been blockaded. A number of other organizational measures have been taken in order to free our men. As yet it is premature to talk of specific results. But I want to note certain positive steps. The Armenian president has just called to report that the hostages will be released today. And he requested that this procedure be handled at official level.

"I have been instructed to do this by a decision of Colonel General V. Samsonov, chief of the Joint Armed Forces General Staff. Representatives of the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers are heading for Yerevan with me. They were in Moscow to solve their own problems. It was suggested that they have a look, so to speak, for themselves, and that they see with their own eyes the conditions in which our officers are serving. Because it is no secret that these officers are often represented as cruel and unfair people who supposedly do nothing but implement a diktat and and commit violence against these women's children. And yet they, the officers, above all are the targets of violence. The latest, outstanding case is sad confirmation of this.

"Representatives of the Coordinating Council of Officers' Assemblies are also flying to Yerevan with us.

"We hope that today, 11 March, our people will be released. [unattributed report ends]

Before this issue was signed to press we received information from the CIS Joint Armed Forces Committee for Work With Personnel: The delegation headed by Maj. Gen. of Aviation Stolyarov has arrived in Armenia. At 1600 hours Moscow time the hostages have still not been released.

Strategic Refuelling Aircraft Removed From CIS

OW1103173392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A regiment of IL-78 refuelling aircraft of the strategic aviation division, located in the town of Uzin in the Kiev region, has been removed from the CIS strategic forces, following Ukrainian Defence Minister Konstantin Morozov's efforts to have the regiment plus one of this division's air squadrons attached to the Ukrainian armed forces.

That was done on insistence of the division commanders who had welcomed the majority of the personnel's decision to take the oath of allegiance to Ukraine. The division had reportedly refused to fulfil the Russian administration's order to send the refuelling aircraft to Russia.

The Ukrainian Defence Ministry informed IF [INTERFAX] that talks are currently underway on the division's transfer to the jurisdiction of Ukraine.

More on Draft Documents on CIS Military Issues

LD1103143892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1203 GMT 11 Mar 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] The draft documents on military issues prepared for the meeting of the Commonwealth heads of state in Kiev on March 20 will be considered by the Commonwealth heads of government in Moscow on March 19. A spokesman in the apparatus of the Chief Command of the Joint Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States told of the prepared documents included the draft agreement on the powers of the Commonwealth supreme bodies for defence issues.

The agreement points out that the supreme body of the Commonwealth is the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Heads of Government coordinates the military-economic activity of the Commonwealth. The draft envisages that the Council of Heads of State elaborates and implements the Commonwealth's military policy, defines the concept of the collective defence and the main directions of military construction, adopts the Commonwealth's military doctrine and nuclear strategy, sets the procedure for decision-making on the use of nuclear weapons, the system of measures that rule out their unsanctioned use and also the procedure for exercising the single control over nuclear weapons and other

weapons of mass destruction, and defines, in accordance with the proposal of the Commonwealth Heads of Government, the size of appropriations and material and technical resources for defence and the maintenance of the Joint Armed Forces.

The Council of Heads of State will determine the composition and structure of the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces, create the chief command, define its powers and the procedure for doing military services in the Joint Armed Forces, and tackle other major defence issues. Participants in the Kiev meeting will also consider the provision on the Chief Command of the Joint Armed Forces. This document stipulates that the Chief Command is guided in its activity by the agreements concluded by the Commonwealth member-states and other plenipotentiary bodies of the Commonwealth as well as statutory instruments of the former Soviet Union if they are not at odds with the aforementioned agreements and decisions.

The draft also envisages that the Chief Command comprises the General Staff, the Command of the Strategic Forces and the Command of the General-Purpose Forces (for the transition period). The document gives the right to create other military control bodies to the commander-in-chief who will define their structure, the number of their staff and powers. The draft agreement on the principles of staffing the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces and doing military service in them will also be put to discussion at the Kiev meeting.

It is proposed to set the draft age from 18 to 27 years. The terms of military service will be as follows: for the majority of conscripts—1.5 years, for seamen and petty officers of the Navy—two years, for persons with higher education—one year. It is envisaged that active duty service under the draft will be combined with service under contract. The draft provision on service under contract will also be submitted to the Kiev summit.

Among the prepared documents is an agreement to use the Commonwealth's airspace, an agreement on the principles guiding the supply of the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces with military equipment and hardware, an agreement on law enforcement bodies in the Joint Armed Forces, and an agreement on the status of the General-Purpose Forces for the transition period.

General Cited on Participation in 17 Mar Rally

OW1203123192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1039 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The command of the Joint United Forces of the CIS does not intend to issue any written or oral instructions concerning the participation of servicemen in actions on March 17. The statement was made in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] by the chief of the office of the chief command Lieutenant-General Leonid Lvashov. It is a working day and the personnel will be involved in regular activities. However, servicemen like any other citizens can take part in the activities of political parties and attend rallies and demonstrations not contradicting legislation. The general said the armed forces are guided by the directive of Marshal Shaposhnikov issued last January requiring commanders to prevent the involvement of servicemen in any "political games".

CIS Official Comments on Republics' Armies

PM1203141992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Mar 92 pp1, 3

[Interview with Colonel General Boris Pyankov, leader of a group of military experts on the solution of questions of creating armed forces in the independent states, by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lieutenant Colonel I. Sergeyev; place and date not given: "The Emergency Supplies Are Not for the Moment Exhausted...Will the Independent States Be Able To Feed Their Armies"—first paragraph is KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[Text] In a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA interview of 22 February 1992, Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, named two leaders of groups of military experts on the solution of questions of creating armed forces in the independent states. Our correspondent approached one of them—Colonel General B. Pyankov.

[Sergeyev] Boris Yevgenyevich where in your view does the main difficulty lie with regard to the problems arising from the Army's division?

[Pyankov] The basic problem with dividing up the Army lies in there being no method for calculating the former republics' contributions to setting up and financing the former USSR Armed Forces. Everything came from a single Union budget and we did not reckon on ever having to divide them up. We had a unified strategy, a unified military plan, and the Soviet Army was built on the basis of the whole Union's security. As we expected the threat to come from the West, it was naturally our western borders which we fortified most strongly and securely. And it has so happened that today the Army's forces which are most battle-ready, and equipped with the best arms and combat hardware, have ended up on Ukrainian and Belarussian territory. Moreover, enormous reserves of petroleum oils and lubricants, ammunition, clothing and related gear, and food were created there. Realizing this, Ukraine is declaring all existing arms and property as belonging to itself. In this way it has acquired a fairly sizeable part of the former USSR Armed Forces.

[Sergeyev] According to the principle: Who dares wins?

[Pyankov] Yes, but I think that we will yet see the dissatisfaction of the other Commonwealth countries at this—putting it mildly—not entirely fair principle for the Army's division. However legal and understandable

the countries' striving to have their own armies might be, it is necessary to go about this in a civilized manner, taking into consideration the interests of the Commonwealth's other countries as well.

[Sergeyev] This "cavalier" division of the Army obviously also touches on some international agreements on quantities of arms, does it not?

[Pyankov] Absolutely true, and we have already come up against this problem. In accordance with the Vienna Agreement an accord exists for fixed quotas for basic categories of weapons in the European part of the former Union: for tanks, artillery, combat vehicles, aircraft, etc. All this hardware was again located in the interests of a common strategic plan. But today we see that they have been distributed in an extremely uneven manner in the states that have separated themselves from each other. There is a great deal of combat equipment in the three military districts in Ukraine, quite a lot in the Belarussian district, and very little in the western part of Russia's territory. There is practically none in Moldova and the other republics. And many of the CIS states are already making claims and expressing their dissatisfaction at their share of these quotas. The sovereign states' heads of state and government will have to make a decision on these matters, taking into consideration all interests in fixing the quotas between the CIS states for basic categories of weapons. This is an extremely complex task because, as I have already convinced myself, no one wants to make concessions to anybody in any sphere. We made an agreement with the European countries fairly quickly, even with our potential enemies of the past. But we will find it hard to come to an agreement today with the republics which are CIS members. And the attempt to somehow approach this question even in talks between defense ministers of the sovereign states has practically speaking produced almost nothing. People immediately begin to say: We have not got this or that...

[Sergeyev] ...But in the meantime ordinary soldiers and officers try to decide of their own accord where and whom they will serve: They are abandoning their units and ships in hundreds, running off home, and officers are starting up bombers and flying off to Russia...

[Pyankov] As regards the 24th Air Army's airmen, I will express my own personal opinion. Talks with Ukraine on this Army's fate have indeed not been completed. The Ukrainian leadership insists on this army's being included in Ukraine's Air Force. But the CIS Joint Armed Forces' command is insisting on this army being classified as belonging to the Strategic Forces' structure as it has in its arsenal a front-line bomber which can carry nuclear weapons and carry out tasks of a strategic nature. This is as far as the fate of the army itself is concerned. But it comprises real people, and the army's "division" cuts right through the fates first and foremost of the officers and warrant officers whom we ought to understand: They served according to one oath, and now they are being proposed another. Their action is in general the step of people who do not wish to betray an oath they have taken earlier. There is of course another side to this—a legal one. Contentious issues concerning the Army should not be resolved by means of stealing airplanes, tank columns, and so on, and this state of affairs is therefore a strong signal that there should be the quickest possible solution regarding the Army.

[Sergeyev] Boris Yevgenyevich, are you not disturbed by the obsessiveness with which several leaders of the independent states have set about building their states by creating an army first and foremost?

[Pyankov] I do not entertain the possibility that the armed forces which are being created in the sovereign states can be used other than to repulse attempts at aggression from outside. All the more so as the very first agreement of the CIS heads of government defined in clear terms a categorical ban on using armed forces to resolve any contentious issues whatsoever between Commonwealth states. However, the events concerning Nagorno-Karabakh give serious cause for concern: Will other politicians be able to refrain from using their armed forces, if they are formed, to resolve political or territorial issues? The events which are taking place in Nagorno-Karabakh today are nudging the heads of state in the direction of adopting decisions to allow armed forces to be created neither in one republic nor another. For there is a great danger and likelihood in the event of these armed forces being created that large-scale combat operations will start and that the neighboring states will be drawn in.

[Sergeyev] Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia, and Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, maintain that Russia is not for the moment going to create its own army. But what could spur it into taking such a step?

[Pyankov] The remaining states' desire to have their own armed forces. Today we can for the moment clearly see that four states have this desire: Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, and Azerbaijan. In contrast the remaining CIS states are prepared to participate in the Joint Armed Forces with certain provisos and reservations. This in our view is the most acceptable alternative for the transitional period, if we orient ourselves on the economic, and the social and political situation in the Commonwealth.

[Sergeyev] As a participant and sometime leader of the talks to resolve contentious military issues, you doubtless see particularly clearly the difficulties which a state comes up against having once decided to provide itself with its own army. What wish would you express to those politicians who are vacillating today but tomorrow will nevertheless make up their minds to create their own armed forces?

[Pyankov] I want first of all to make the observation that all the CIS states have recognized any state's right to create its own armed forces and that this is not open to dispute at all. But before putting this right into effect, I

would like the heads of state and those who will be studying this question to think through very carefully, weigh up, and fix in law the issues of servicemen's social security.

Let us assume, an officer has served five to seven years in the Moldovan armed forces and retired on a pension. Will he be credited with 20 years previous service in the Soviet Army? And which state will pay his pension? There is a multitude of such questions which arise.

Another aspect of this problem is the Army's material and technical and logistic support. At the talks you hear such things as: We will create our own army, people say, but the logistic support will as before be the center's responsibility. But this will not work. For example Ukraine has put all air force units under its own command, which include an enormous quantity of airplanes of different makes: There are transport planes, fighter planes, bombers, and helicopters. They not only need kerosene but dozens of types of engines, thousands of types of spare parts and so on. Hundreds of plants worked on these in their time, and in a single economic system everything was resolved fairly easily and simply, but today... In Moldova, for example, there is a fighter regiment which has not flown for a month now. Soon it will not be possible to allow airmen to make flights on their own without instructors—they are being disqualified. And the reason is that there is no engine oil. It is produced in Tyumen or Sverdlovsk, but now it is being exchanged for meat and sausage, but as we know air force regiments do not produce meat...

[Sergeyev] A harsh but simple question then arises: Are our Armed Forces battle-ready now at all?

[Pyankov] At the moment I can answer—yes, they are battle-ready. There is a core which keeps them together—our wonderful officers and warrant officers. They have a sizeable store of up-to-date combat hardware and arms which our ordinary soldiers and noncommissioned officers have skillfully mastered. The great feeling of consciousness and responsibility for the defense of the motherland has not yet been completely lost. But nevertheless people's patience is not limitless. Large measures of economic problems have been added to the political problems which are literally tearing the Army apart. Today it is becoming more and more difficult to supply the Armed Forces with everything they need. In places it has even become very difficult to supply servicemen with food. When was it that it was difficult to feed an ordinary soldier in our state?

In a number of cases military units have been forced to live on emergency rations. But you see these supplies were created for a special time, or to put it more simply, in case of war. Only the USSR defense minister could give permission for them to be drawn on. But now there are many defense ministers and they are disposing of these supplies as they see fit, and units' combat readiness is being maintained at their expense.

Many units have already taken emergency supplies of food, fuel, many types of lubrication, and spare parts, but there are no replacements. The stores will not last for ever—some people will last a month, some a half a year on them, and then it will be necessary to raise the question of the Army's combat readiness in a very serious manner.

[Sergeyev] A final question. A new round of talks is expected in Kiev on 20 March. What military questions will be resolved this time round?

[Pyankov] It is proposed that we a discuss and adopt a series of agreements at this meeting: on the powers of the CIS's top bodies in questions of defense; on a single defense budget; the regulations governing the High Command of the Commonwealth's Joint Armed Forces; on the status of the General Purpose Forces; and a decision about appointing a chief of General Staff, a commander of the Strategic Forces, and a commander of the General Purpose Forces of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. Apart from this the question of the principles of manpower acquisition of the Joint Armed Forces and carrying out military service will be put up for discussion, in which at the initiative of Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, a proposal has been put forward on introducing compulsory service lasting one and a half years.

Commonwealth

Deputy Ministers Hold Conference on Summit

LD1103130192 Moscow TASS in English 1222 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—A conference of deputy foreign ministers and deputy defence ministers of the CIS member states and Georgia began today at the Russian foreign ministry. Participants in the conference will continue to coordinate the order of ratification and fulfilment of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty and the Treaty on the Limitation of Armed Forces in Europe, that have been signed with the United States, but not ratified so far.

The draft agreements on those subjects were prepared, on the whole, by experts from the CIS member states during the previous rounds of consultations. They are planned to be submitted for the consideration of the heads of state, who will get together in Kiev on March 20, this year.

The conference of deputy ministers will end on March 12.

Little Progress Seen on Agenda

MK1203081992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Mar 92 p 1

[Vera Kuznetsova report: "There Will Have To Be a Lot of Talk About the Army in Kiev, and a Little Bit About the Economy"]

[Text] On 2 March in Moscow the CIS defense ministers examined 15 draft agreements concerning military-political questions. The ministers decided not to include five documents on the list for the talks in Kiev, including the draft about the division of Army property. In a clear attempt to exploit its advantage of being on "home turf," Ukraine has been submitting alternative documents even at the preliminary stage.

The meetings of CIS heads of government in Moscow on 12 March will discuss the economic package for 20 March. Its content will largely be determined by three republics: Ukraine (primarily by its demand for the division of the property of the former USSR), Kazakhstan, and Russia. As yet the economic drafts have not gotten off the ground: Even those of them (for instance, the one about dividing the assets and liabilities of the USSR State Bank) that were supposed to have been signed back in Minsk have not been agreed.

In Moscow 11-12 March CIS military and Foreign Ministry experts are also to discuss the agreement on the timetable and procedure for ratification of the treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive arms and conventional forces in Europe. If it proves possible to agree positions, this agreement will be included on the "Kiev list."

The question of the status of the Black Sea Fleet will probably not be referred to the general conference of Commonwealth heads of state 20 March—before that there will be bilateral Ukrainian-Russian talks about this.

Congress Organizer Rebuts Popov Allegations

PM1103170392 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 12 Mar 92 p 1

[Report by S. Umalatova, chairman of the Congress Organizational Committee: "It Seems to the Mayor..."]

[Text] In connection with a statement made by USSR People's Deputy G.Kh. Popov, mayor of the city of Moscow, the [Congress of USSR People's Deputies] organizational committee resolutely rejects his fabrications regarding the organizational committee's alleged intentions to overthrow the constitutional system of the Russian Federation. If Mr. Popov has information at his disposal about the plans of tens of thousands of "armed gunmen" to arrive in Moscow, the fact that this information has still not been corroborated by documents from relevant authorized bodies arouses bewilderment.

The organizational committee protests such statements by G. Popov as well as other officials who occupy high state posts, and believes that they are pursuing nothing other than far-reaching PROVOCATIVE AIMS and whipping up passions around the sixth extraordinary congress of USSR peoples' deputies, which is being convened in accordance with the law.

The checking-in and registration of the USSR people's deputies who have arrived for the Congress will begin 15 March at 1000 in the Moskva Hotel, room 1205.

Vitebsk Venue Rumor 'Deliberate Misinformation'

PM1203100592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 92 p 2

["Own Information" report: "Who Needs Dead Duck?"]

[Text] The mass media and Russian television have suddenly produced a report that the sixth (extraordinary) congress of USSR people's deputies will take place... in Vitebsk. Our correspondent asked S. Umalatova, chairman of the organizational committee for convening the congress, for an explanation.

"Yes, this report appeared recently in the Russian VESTI program," she said. "It is pure misinformation and it seems to me deliberate misinformation. This has been done for one purpose—to confuse and misinform the people's deputies and public. So: The sixth (extraordinary) congress of USSR people's deputies will be held in Moscow 17 March. The deputies' checking-in and registration will take place 15 and 16 March.

"Our organizational committee has appealed to the heads of the CIS states with the following statement: 'Taking into account the fact that the continuing disintegration of economic, political, cultural, and personal relations may very soon acquire an irreversible nature and aware of our responsibility to our peoples, we suggest that you take part in the organization and work of the sixth (extraordinary) congress of USSR people's deputies.'

"Incidentally, I want to stress that the organizational committee is engaged only in preparing the congress. We have nothing to do with the organization and convening of the 17 March meeting and assembly, which is the concern of 'Working Moscow.'"

Former USSR Deputies Seen as 'Active Idlers'

PM1103170192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Nikolay Andreyev article under "Today and Tomorrow" rubric: "Yesterday's Men Want To Break Through to the Future. A. Krayko Wants To Remain a USSR People's Deputy. People Should Not Go to Rallies 17 March for the Sake of This Whim"]

[Text] The idea of resurrecting the USSR and restoring the former power structure is very tempting to some people. An organizing committee has been set up to prepare for an emergency sixth congress of USSR people's deputies. The organizing committee is headed by Sazhi Umalatova. She is famous for demanding Gorbachev's resignation from the post of USSR president at the Fourth Congress. This is how Umalatova formulated the agenda of the planned congress: "It is proposed to discuss the situation in the country and measures to prevent a catastrophe." An interesting development, for the organ of power to which Umalatova belonged was mainly renowned for endlessly discussing "the situation in the country and preventive measures." Vigorous

speeches were made in parliament and at congresses, but this had little effect on our life. Hence the natural result—the former Soviet republics decided to get out of the crisis one by one. The need for any Union organs disappeared.

If you look at it objectively, the former Supreme Soviet of the former Union did quite a lot: It began to resemble a parliament, i.e. a permanently functioning legislative organ. Many sound, stable laws were prepared, and the present parliaments of the Commonwealth member states are not ashamed to borrow them. But who drew up these laws? Who sat up for nights over them? Not Umalatova and the congress' other initiators—A. Krayko, N. Strukov, A. Chekhoyev, A. Kryshkin, V. Alksnis, Ye. Kogan... The fearless television reporter A. Nevzorov lumped them with "our guys" along with the members of the Riga special purpose militia detachment. However, I would put it differently: They are active idlers. Observing them in everyday parliamentary life, it was possible to conclude that the chief thing for them in their activity as deputies was to create a fuss and a scandal, to lay down an ultimatum, to demand resignations. They did not accustom themselves to painstaking legislative work. This demands assiduity, intellect, and conscientiousness. It is far easier to hog the microphone and let fly with menacing words.

The Union parliament, it should be noted, was not devoid of such inflammatory speeches. During the last months of its existence the legislative organ was a half-asleep, half-awake being. Incidentally, parliamentarians were very offended when the television relay of the session showed one state head or another dropping onto its breast under the weight of sleep. Well, these things happen. How opportune an alarm clock in the person, let us say, of Alksnis, Sukhov, or Umalatova will sometimes prove here. They will throw out several heated accusations from the rostrum and raise up a small typhoon—you see, the life of deputies does not seem so monotonous.

Umalatova is now trying to rouse the people. Of course, the most noble intentions are proclaimed: to save the homeland and open the country's eyes to the policy—as the press organ of "our guys" puts it—of "Yeltsin's interim government of occupation." At the same time the congress organizers cherish the sweet illusion that they are the people's leaders and that working people will follow them through fire and water. Here, for example, are Krayko's complaints about how hard it is to be a "servant of the people": "We are not able to work as USSR people's deputies. Under these conditions the only thing the people can do is take to the streets." But does he not exaggerate his significance in the eyes of the people? Does he really seriously believe that the people will build barricades in order to place Krayko in the Kremlin?

It is all more simple. Retired General A. Makashov speaks with military clarity and frankness: "From ancient times Russia has always pitied and loved martyrs who suffered for their faith and the homeland." It turns out that he would very much like to be a martyr, a hero, a savior. For this, of course, he has to raise the people to storm the Kremlin or the White House. How passionately he wants riots to break out, and the summit of his dreams is blood.

S. Kurginyan, the ideologue of "our guys" (incidentally, in the past he headed the think tank at Moscow CPSU City Committee), theoretically substantiates just such a development of events: "But the mass is not yet ready for vigorous activity and still has to be provoked here... Demonstrations are banned. But it is necessary to march. A discussion of the devices for breaking through cordons will surely begin among activists. Breakthrough groups will surely be prepared. The man in the street will not let people commit such an outrage against him a second time." The first time was 23 February. As we see, the lessons have been taken into account, and on 17 March (the proposed date of the congress and a rally in Manezh Square) "our guys" will most likely do everything to provoke large-scale riots.

This is the chief and maybe even the only aim. All the words about saving the homeland and the shouts about the people's suffering are simple pyrotechnics.

A final point. "Our guys" have taken account of the lessons of their February offensive, while the Moscow authorities seem not to have done so. Again prohibitions, again the center of Moscow will be girdled by militia cordons, again nightsticks. That is, everything on which "our guys" are counting is being done—a confrontational situation which they will not find it difficult to escalate into clashes. If I could have my way, I would not erect any obstacles to the gathering of "our guys" in Manezh Square. Let the congress meet too. It would also be a good thing to show it in full on television, so that society can see for itself how useless, empty, and arrogant all this is. Umalatova and the members of the organizing committee have great pretensions, and some of their desires are highly inventive. For example, the initiators have decided that those former USSR people's deputies who do not come to the congress will automatically relinquish their powers as deputies. Consequently, there will be a quorum in any case, even if only some 30 people gather there. Will they really be our supreme power?

Media

Correspondents Hold Conference in Kyrgyzstan

LD1003175892 Moscow TASS in English 1551 GMT 10 Mar 92

[By Unidentified KYRGYZTAG correspondent]

[Text] Bishkek March 10 TASS—A conference of representatives of former central newspapers and magazines, whose correspondents are accredited in Kyrgyzstan, as

well as staffers of the MEGAPOLIS EXPRESS international newspaper and the Freedom Radio Station, was held here today.

The theme of the forum was "to oppose the destruction of communication channels and established information relations between the CIS member-states".

Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev, whose press service has organized the event, supported the correspondents' wish to preserve the single information space.

The conference elaborated principles of mass media activities on territory of the former Soviet Union under new conditions. Many of the conference speakers believe an international coordination center should be set up to inform CIS residents on major events within and outside the Commonwealth.

President Akayev Addresses Conference

PM1103124192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Mar 92 p 3

[Report by Colonel A. Ladin: "President Akayev: Many Former Central Newspapers Continue To Enjoy Popularity in Republic"]

[Text] Management representatives and journalists from a number of newspapers which used to be central newspapers in the former USSR came to Bishkek at the invitation of President of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev. They took part in a "roundtable" on questions of forming a single information area and the role of the press in stabilizing the sociopolitical situation on the territory of the CIS. The newspaper representatives took part in a conversation with the president of Kyrgyzstan which went on for over three hours.

Addressing the participants in the meeting, Askar Akayev advocated the preservation of a single information area in the CIS. He stressed that the former central newspapers have recently started paying less attention to Kyrgyzstan, and indeed to other Central Asian republics. As a result of the one-sided supply of information, interest in many press organs which publish in Moscow is declining. At the same time, the president of Kyrgyzstan stressed that TRUD, IZVESTIYA, PRAVDA, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, and SELSKAYA ZHIZN continue to enjoy great popularity among the republic's readers, who are continuing to subscribe to them. They are interested in thorough and objective coverage by these publications of the processes taking place in the independent states of the Central Asian region.

The president expressed concern at the fact that restricted access to the former central newspapers experienced by the bulk of readers in Kyrgyzstan is narrowing the sphere of influence of the Russian language. Whereas the Russian language, in his opinion, used to serve the cause of strengthening civil peace and interethnic accord, and should continue to do so.

"The information vacuum that is forming," Askar Akayev stressed, "may be filled by foreign news agencies which recently have been displaying noticeable activity in the Central Asian region and are offering their own services on advantageous terms."

The president of Kyrgyzstan gave detailed answers to the journalists' numerous questions. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA representatives also took part in the discussion. The position of the Kyrgyz leadership on questions that will be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the CIS heads of state in Kiev were of special interest to the participants in the briefing. Askar Akayev notably expressed his viewpoint on problems concerning the army and the social protection of servicemen. He stressed that of the former Union's attributes, he would preserve the unity and might of the army. The idea of the unity of the Armed Forces is also supported by the people of Kyrgyzstan.

TASS Carries Press Review for 12 Mar

LD1203064392 Moscow TASS in English 0546 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS—Today's newspaper PRAVDA carries reports about the beginning of a sowing campaign in southern regions of the country, which is being hindered by the lingering war and the lack of seeds and spare parts.

The newspaper also publishes an interview with Matvey Burlakov, commander of the Western Group of Troops, where he confirms that the withdrawal of troops from Germany proceeds in accordance with the schedule.

Burlakov expressed concern about the future of officers returning to Russia as there are no apartments to accommodate them. There were 55,000 such families, which is about 200,000 people, by the beginning of the withdrawal, Burlakov said.

The newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA offers an article by Igor Konstantinov, a member of the Russian parliament, in which he analyses the balance of political forces in the republican legislature on the eve of the sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies.

He predicts a fight between the Democratic Russia faction which supports the government and the factions Russia and Smena, which form the opposition.

Konstantinov, a member of the faction Smena, criticised the current policy of the Russian Government, including its economic, ethnic, foreign, military and cultural policy.

The newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes an article by Vladimir Buldakov devoted to the 75th anniversary of the bourgeois-democratic revolution in Russia in February 1917. He stressed the need to understand and learn a lesson from the revolution.

The newspaper said the Russian parliamentary Presidium denounced an attempt to hold a Congress of Soviet People's Deputies on March 17 as "an infringement on Russia's state sovereignty."

Russian Prosecutor General Valentin Stepankov described the attempt by former Soviet deputies as illegal and warned criminal proceedings could be instituted against them.

"An attempt to reanimate the Congress of Soviet People's Deputies is not as stupid and innocent as it may seem," former Soviet deputy Oleg Blokhin said.

He said this is an attempt to destabilise the situation in the country by employing methods similar to those used by the plotters last August.

However, Professor Vladimir Filimonov believes the decision to convene a congress is perfectly legal and cannot be overruled by the Russian prosecutor general or the Russian parliament, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA said.

The youth daily KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA begins a series of publications about attempts to fight crime in Russia by Russian law enforcement bodies.

The crime rate grew in February, including crimes committed by corrupt gangs and groups using fire arms. The number of such crimes increased by 31.4 per cent last month, the newspaper said, quoting the Russian Interior Ministry information centre.

The trade union daily TRUD publishes an interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, where he urges the leaders of Commonwealth states to stop the bloodshed in Nagorno-Karabakh.

He said the leaders should discuss this issue at their next meeting in Kiev on March 20.

Kravchuk reiterated that Ukraine will create its own armed forces and denied allegations that his republic intends to secede from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA said the Estonian parliament stripped military deputies of their mandates. Some parliamentarians proposed similar measures against former KGB agents, Communist Party leaders and Russians living in Estonia.

TASS Carries Evening Press Review for 11 Mar

LD1103192692 Moscow TASS in English 1808 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—The developments in Nagorno- Karabakh are the main topic of the evening edition of the "IZVESTIYA" newspaper on Wednesday [11 March]. A new dramatic event was added to the bloodshed in Transcaucasia: ten innocent people, officers of the CIS Armed Forces, citizens of Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, who were taken hostage in Armenia, are facing a deadly threat. A big amount of weapons was asked in exchange for their lives. The war in Transcaucasia spirals up, the newspaper concludes.

"IZVESTIYA" also informs about an appeal to the people by newly elected Azerbaijani parliamentary speaker Yakub Mamedov who is also an acting president until new presidential elections are held in the republic. The newspaper believes that the tone and lecsics [as received] of the appeal fully correspond to those used in war times.

The Military Council of Georgia issued its last statement on March 10 in which it eliminated itself and announced the creation of the State Council—a provisional supreme body of power. Eduard Shevardnadze became chairman of the State Council, while Jaba Ioseliani was appointed his deputy.

The "VECHERNAYA MOSKVA" and "IZVESTIYA" newspapers pay much attention to the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR and a mass support rally scheduled for March 17. Both newspapers publish the statement by Moscow reformist Mayor Gavriil Popov who said that the main threat to Russian democratic reforms is posed by the desire of the organisers of the March 17 events to "shed blood by any price".

To convene the congress is not a completely hopeless idea, according to Yuriy Golik, a former Soviet parliamentarian. "The congress is necessary to revive the statehood. The absence of the state means hunger, deaths and sufferings. Today we do not have a state", he told the "IZVESTIYA" newspaper.

Russian Prosecutor General Valentin Stepankov warns former Soviet deputies against violating the law. "If this is not taken into consideration the congress organisers can face criminal charges for illegal self-appointment of ranks (of people's deputies of non-existent USSR) or for state treason in form of plotting to seize power the way the coup plotters did last August", he wrote in "IZVESTIYA".

Any actions like the one planned for March 17 are very dangerous, the "VECHERNAYA MOSKVA" warns. President of the Russian Union of Industrialists Arkadiy Volskiy called on everyone who had been invited to attend the planned strikes, meetings and conferences to understand that the actions can cause nothing but an outburst of mutual hatred. His statement is published by the "VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA".

The "IZVESTIYA" publishes today excerpts from an article by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, earlier published by the "KAZAKHSTAN PRAVDA" newspaper. The developments in the Commonwealth are not yet clear, he writes. The nuclear problem is the most urgent one. The existing control system over the nuclear button, which was handed over to Russia, is not sufficient. A system of blocking any nuclear launch by presidents of other three nuclear CIS states is necessary, Nazarbayev said. The president added he is sure the

main item of the military problem is the adherence of the CIS members to a united army.

The rating of popularity of the Russian Government among residents of St. Petersburg is going up, according to the "VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA". 32 per cent of the polled city residents supported the economic reforms of the government.

"Nuclear weapons are withdrawn from Ukraine, but we do not know for sure where they are deployed", Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said at a meeting with visiting U.S. congressmen in Kiev, the "IZVESTIYA" reports. The president believes the withdrawal should be internationally monitored.

Production of practically all types of consumer goods will drop in Moscow in the first quarter of the year. The production of food will face an even sharper decline, the "VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA" reported quoting the Moscow statistical committee. The main reason for the decline is the absence of raw materials and completing parts. Spendings for food grew from 34 per cent last December to 57 per cent of family budgets. The spendings for food grow while consumption falls, the newspaper notes.

International Affairs

Foreign Minister Kozyrev Ends European Visit

LD1103183792 Moscow TASS in English 1746 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Yuriy Sidorov, Valeriy Shashkov, and Georgiy Shmelyev]

[Text] Brussels, March 11 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev completed his visit to Belgium on Wednesday [11 March]. On the same day he had talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, which continued over four hours.

During the visit Andrey Kozyrev had talks with his Belgium counterpart Willy Claes and President of the Commission for European Communities Jacques Delors.

Andrey Kozyrev also attended an extraordinary session of the North Atlantic Council for Cooperation (NACC), established last December to develop contacts between NATO and states of central and eastern Europe. The members of the CIS were admitted to NACC in accordance with the decision adopted at the session.

The Russian foreign minister also attended a conference devoted to the establishment of an international scientific-technical centre in Russia. Its main task is to give an opportunity to scientists and experts of the former Soviet Union engaged in arms development, particularly of weapons of mass destruction, to use their experience for peaceful purposes.

On Wednesday, Andrey Kozyrev left Brussels for St. Petersburg.

Reviews Tour

LD1203104192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev returned from his European tour last night. He visited Denmark, Norway, and Belgium, and took part in the work of session of the Council of Baltic States and the sitting of the extraordinary session of the NATO Council. Andrey Kozyrev met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and stopped in St. Petersburg on his way back to Russia. In an exclusive interview with our correspondent, Sergey Pustovoyt, on his arrival at Vnukovo airport in Moscow, Andrey Kozyrev summed up some of the results of his European tour:

[Begin recording] [Kozyrev] I think that we did the right thing to fly from St. Petersburg because this was a northern tour, a window into Europe, into the Baltic region. It was Peter the First who once opened it up; now many people in our country worry whether Russia is somehow withdrawing, breaking away. I must say that we have satisfied ourselves that Europe is waiting for us, and we are ready to enter it. I think that with the new methods—first and foremost through the authority of a democratic parliament, of the government and the president of Russia, through our determination to enter the world community by civilized methods—not only will we not close this window, but we have opened it wider than ever before. The Baltic Cooperation Council is a new way of working.

For instance, we have never had such agreements on the fishing industry with Norway, nor with Greenland. It is the first time that such agreements have been concluded. I am only taking only one aspect of it. Let us take the communique on the results of the meeting with the ministers of the 12 European states. This was an unprecedented event. Shevardnadze met them twice; he opened this path, but only now have we succeeded in producing an agreed-on statement. We have succeeded in producing an extended communique with the EC Commission—again, in practice they have no communiques with foreign ministers, even from Western European states.

That is to say, in short, I think we have a very large reserve of trust. Everything is in our hands, but my meeting today with Sobchak in St. Petersburg showed that on our side, too, we have a highly purposeful leadership, and the desire and capability to occupy—I think it is not far off—leading positions in the Baltic region.

[Pustovoyt] Andrey Vladimirovich, we spoke of the relations between Europe and Russia. What about Russian-American relations? What I have in mind is the results of your talks with Baker.

[Kozyrev] The results, all in all, are positive, but what has begun now is the stage at which it is necessary to implement political accords. We worked on the basis of the Camp David communique of the presidents, and we looked at how it can be implemented in concrete work. Here I must say that there are problems, in view of the very great burden of the past. Of course we have a problem of overcoming, well, to put it frankly, bureaucratic resistance. We do have in the apparatus, in the departments, the inertia of the olden days, inertia that expresses itself specifically in adopting attitudes belonging in the past, rather than the attitudes the president set out in Camp David together with President Bush, as they agreed.

That is to say, there is this desire, when practical subjects begin to be discussed, to return a little bit to the old ways, to be a little bit more cautious than is necessary. That is why our task will consist in keeping to the level set by the presidents and to keep to the level that has been set: a level of bold, decisive, energetic action, without letting ourselves be dragged again into the treadmill of these protracted talks. At the same time, of course, mutual interests must be protected with sufficient firmness.

[Pustovoyt] Tell me, was this level adhered to during your NATO talks?

[Kozyrev] In NATO, yes, I think. It was found possible with NATO to keep to this level because the NATO session ended with the adoption of an expanded cooperation program, in which Russia plays a very noticeable, worthy, and strong role. [end recording]

Remarks on Nagorno-Karabakh

OW1203121292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1039 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev thinks that at the present stage NATO forces cannot be used for settling the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. Russia with its mediating efforts has greater chances to bring peace to the region. Speaking at a news conference in Petersburg where he made a stopover after a tour of Europe the foreign minister expressed surprise about reports of NATO intentions to interfere in the Karabakh conflict. The Brussels session of the North Atlantic Coordinating Council which he attended discussed the hypothetical possibility of using NATO means of transportation and infrastructure, such as air fields. "If the question of transferring a peacekeeping force arises, NATO does not have the force or the powers for that, neither does the Coordinating Council," the foreign minister stressed.

He felt that it is the mediating mission of Russia that gives the chance to stop the conflict. This mission was supported by the foreign ministers of EC countries, the Coordinating Council and the U.S. Secretary of State. "The diplomatic stage is ready for the first act of reconciliation. But for this the two sides should realize that the conflict cannot be resolved by military means," the minister said.

On other subjects Andrey Kozyrev said that at the session of the Baltic Council in Copenhagen the Russian delegation toughly demanded the observation of the rights of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic states.

Vice President Rutskoy on Armenian Situation

LD1103231192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2023 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Interview with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy by television correspondent Grigoryev; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Grigoryev] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, what is the present situation regarding the hostages taken in Armenia?

[Rutskoy] Well, for a start, the situation is difficult. I would like to look at how events have generally developed recently. I am not talking about earlier years—1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, or 1991—or about how many people have been killed since the start of the conflict. Let us look at the latest stage—since 1 January. Seventy attacks have taken place against daily detail and guard detail personnel. Seventy attacks. This includes 33 attacks on sentries. Ninety-five percent of the attacks took place in the Transcaucasus military okrug. Twenty-one servicemen, including seven officers, were killed. Twenty-five servicemen were injured, including eight officers. More than 2,000 weapons and around 60 pieces of military hardware were stolen. The strategic depot of the Transcaucasus military okrug was seized. That is how events have been developing.

Now let us see what has been going on just recently. Hostages have been seized. People were invited to a conference to decide joint action and so on. They duly seized them. One, two, three, four lieutenant colonels, two majors, three captains, and a lieutenant. When a military camp came under fire, Lieutenant Mishchenko and Private Kotov were killed. Senior Lieutenant Orekhov and Senior Lieutenant Tuleyev were injured.

[Grigoryev] What is happening now?

[Rutskoy] At the present time the situation is like this: The hostages are with the Armenian side. I spoke to [Armenian President] Ter-Petrosyan about this yesterday. I spoke to the chief of General Staff. I sent a coded telegram to the president [not further specified] today about measures to be taken on this. I think just one thing should be done: The troops of the Transcaucasus military okrug should be withdrawn immediately from the territory of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. They are sovereign states—sovereign Azerbaijan, sovereign Armenia, sovereign Georgia. Let them sort out their own affairs among themselves. It is time the Armed Forces stopped being held hostage. What is happening is this: The Azerbaijani side accuses the Armed Forces of supporting the Armenian side. The Armenian side claims that the Armed Forces support the Azerbaijani side. There are attacks on servicemen, murders, and seizures. They come under fire, and so on and so forth. Enough is enough. It is high time to put an end to it all.

The point is that every day—today I was talking with 4th Army Commander Nikolay Glebovich Popov—and two more died this morning. How can one explain to the parents, the mothers, the wives, the sons, the children, about everything that is taking place today in Armenia and Azerbaijan?

[Grigoryev] Well, the hostages are still alive.

[Rutskoy] The hostages are still alive. Major General Stolyarov flew there today with the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers and with the Committee of the Officers' Assembly, which was set up recently. They flew directly to the president in order to resolve the question of the hostages. The conditions are these, and today I sent a telegram to Ter-Petrosyan—an appropriate one, perhaps it could even be called a tough telegram—with the urgent demand to release the hostages. We want no more coffins brought back to Russian territory.

[Grigoryev] According to information we received yesterday, citing [word indistinct] it is asserted that there is

a danger of Armenian combatants seizing nuclear weapons precisely on the territory of that garrison which is now surrounded by them, and from where the hostages were seized.

[Rutskoy] Well, first of all, let us look at it this way on the subject of the existence of nuclear weapons. In the first place this is ruled out. That is the first thing. Second, in the telegram I sent to the president of Armenia, I clearly and precisely pointed out that if the Armenian combatants do not cease such actions then the troops will be given the appropriate order to defend themselves in the specified manner. Why? Because there is a limit to everyone's patience.

I would like to see what would happen if Armenia or Azerbaijan had behaved like that toward any other state, toward Turkey or the United States. You can imagine what would have happened in return for this. Take the United States, for example. At the very least, the United States takes a tough line in defense of every one of its citizens. But what are these unprecedented incidents for—and these are not just incidents but tragedies; what are they for, one wonders; what is their purpose?

Let us now take a look at the prescribed strength and the composition, so to say, of these armies. The Belarussians have left, the Ukrainians have left, the Balts have left, the Uzbeks have left, the Tajiks have left. So now the 4th Army has only 28 percent of its prescribed strength. There is not even anyone to defend military installations. There is theft of weapons. Just look: Over 2,000 weapons have been stolen.

[Grigoryev] In that case, what is the attitude to the requests from the Armenian and Azerbaijan sides that they should be allocated a certain quantity of weapons in order to create their own armies in the future?

[Rutskoy] Well, let them first bring their relations into line with those of civilized states. After that, they can raise this subject again. But if we give in to this and give them combat equipment and weapons, they will be used only against people, only against people. The most important thing is that in this situation the ones who die are not the politicos who whip up all of these passions. No, the ones who die are the peaceful inhabitants, children, old people, and women. That is the tragedy.

If we say that we are the CIS, then let us resolve this problem at the level of the CIS; let us bring to book those who whip up such phenomena. When all is said and done, someone must be held responsible for people's deaths. The CIS and the United Nations should respond appropriately to this situation in Armenia and Azerbaijan. This will not end well.

[Grigoryev] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, one further clarification. Are there nuclear weapons on the territory of Armenia and Azerbaijan?

[Rutskoy] Of course there are, of course there are [repeats]. But access to these weapons and use of these weapons is virtually 1,000 percent ruled out.

[Grigoryev] That is, the danger of their being seized is ruled out?

[Rutskoy] It is ruled out. The appropriate instructions are already in operation which make it impossible for this to occur. All weapons should be withdrawn from there.

[Grigoryev] Many thanks.

[Rutskoy] That is quite all right.

Favors CIS Troops Withdrawal

OW1103175492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vice-President of Russia Aleksandr Rutskoy has spoken in favor of an immediate withdrawal of CIS troops with all of their arms and military equipment from the Transcaucasian region. This is a necessary condition, otherwise the arms can be used to heat tension in the region, the vice-president said in a televised interview to be shown in "Vesti" news program later today.

He expressed serious concern over the fate of Russian officers, servicemen of the Transcaucasian Military District, who were taken hostage by Armenian militants. The vice-president noted that lately 21 CIS servicemen have been killed and 15 wounded.

Burbulis, Ukraine's Fokin Hold Meeting

LD1103202392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] A Meeting between Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Gennadiy Burbulis and Ukraine Prime Minister Vitold Fokin has taken place in Moscow. The talks were of confidential nature.

Minister Petr Aven Ends Visit to PRC

LD1103172692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Report from Beijing by station correspondent Albert Papayan]

[Text] The visit of the Russian minister for foreign economic relations to China has ended. Our correspondent Albert Papayan reports from Beijing.

[Papayan] The signing of a trade and economic agreement was the main result of our trip to China. This is the first treaty between Russia and China and we defined the basic principles of our trade and economic relations in it. Petr Aven, the Russian minister for foreign economic

relations, made a statement about the treaty in an interview to CIS journalists accredited in Beijing on the day before he left for home.

He said that the agreement accords both sides the most-favored nation status. A 37-percent drop in commodity circulation was reported last year in trade with China. This year we would very much like to return to the 1990 volume of commodity circulation, the minister noted. Petr Aven said that the main problems in trade with China is our ignorance of the Chinese market and our Chinese partners' ignorance of our market and our potential.

He said that the main thing today is the information problem. During this visit we managed to dispel the existing doubts, the minister said. The Chinese partners understood that regardless of what takes place in our country we will cooperate with them. We will have very good relations with them. The Chinese leadership is highly pragmatic, competent, and professional, and we are interested in developing our relations with it, the Russian minister stressed.

Kovalev Criticizes Cuban Human Rights Record

PM1103162992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Report by Yevgeniy Bay: "From Castro's Jails to Pyongyang's Concentration Camps: Blots on the Human Rights Map"]

[Excerpts] Geneva, Moscow—The 48th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva has ended and, in the opinion of participants, was one of the best in the entire history of this international organ. Addressing the session, Russian delegation leader Sergey Kovalev stated that this is the first time that Russia has sworn allegiance to the ideology of human rights. At the same time he called on the commission's member countries to "call a spade a spade" and "not try to fool one another." Thus Russia has declared two principles which it will adhere to in the human rights sphere from now on. On the one hand we are only just beginning to form interstate relations in conditions of democratic and independent partnership, on the other, we have become quite open to criticism so as to be able to give recommendations to our new partners and allies.

Russian Mission Receives Cuban Dissidents

It was under that headline that news agencies reported from Geneva on the reception given at the Russian permanent mission in honor of leaders of Amnesty International, Freedom House, the International Lawyers Association, the Quakers, and other international humanitarian and rights defense organizations. The emphasis on the Cuban dissidents in the reports was so strong that the Russian delegation (which in principle has nothing against dialogue with Castro's opponents) was forced to explain that the Cubans were invited because many of them belong to the aforementioned international organizations.

Be that as it may, the reception at the mission sponsored by the Russian parliament (to the tacit horror of mission head Ye. Makeyev) was the most sensational and widely commented event during the work of the present session of the UN Commission on Human Rights. [passage omitted]

In the middle of the reception, Sergey Kovalev, surrounded by Cuban veteran members of the Association of Cuban Former Political Prisoners (one had spent 28 years in Castro's jails) proposed a toast in which he said: "When I was in prison (S. Kovalev himself was imprisoned from 1974 through 1981 and then spent 3 years in exile in Kolyma—Yevg. Bay note) each day we sensed support from outside and solidarity with us. Now it is time to repay those debts and help those who have not yet gained freedom."

Kovalev's report at the session, in which every word was carefully weighed, contained just one phrase on the Cuban Government's policy—Russia greatly regrets that "Mr. Rivas, the UN special representative for Cuba, who is well known for his independence, has not been given an opportunity to visit that country." But along with 22 other states (against eight), Russia voted for a resolution condemning human rights violations in Cuba; brutality against the regime's political opponents, inappropriate prison sentences, a ban on the activity of political parties, the humiliation of people in jail, and compulsory psychiatric treatment—the full gamut of measures which totalitarianism uses and which we knew ourselves all too well.

So this was the first time that we told our recent opponents from such an important platform that there will be no concessions to tradition, custom, or "special" interests. If there is confirmation that human rights are being violated in a country and no evidence of a government's desire to rectify the situation, that policy will be censured by Russia.

This is especially so if a country demonstrates clear contempt for the opinion of the world community. [passage omitted]

Nevertheless, I would note that Russia rejected the U.S. proposal to coauthor the resolution on Cuba. S. Kovalev explained his delegation's stance in part by saying that we "along with a number of others are forced to use a criterion which is very important for us—our historical responsibility for the situation in those countries."

This applies not only to Cuba but also North Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Syria and other states which, as pointed out at the session, will need to take energetic measures to prevent human rights violations.

In the Russian delegation leader's opinion, in the modern world you can place countries in three categories depending on the level of violation of the basic human rights.

The first category consists of states with clearly marked characteristics of a dictatorial, authoritarian, or totalitarian regime. In the policy of those states there is no place for human rights. As a rule, their governments greet the world community's criticism with particular hostility and their efforts are aimed primarily at holding on to power.

Myanmar (Burma) above all is in this category of states today. All opposition politicians in that Asian state are in prison there now, including the Nobel prize winning opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who received the majority of the population's votes in the presidential elections there. Iraq, Haiti, Sudan, and Zaire are in the same category.

The second group of countries is characterized by a renunciation of totalitarianism but the declared principles have not been enshrined in the corresponding laws and the structure of democracy has not been created. This situation is exemplified by Russia itself, certain East European countries, and a number of states in Central and Latin America which have freed themselves of dictatorships.

Finally, the third group includes states with quite well developed democratic institutions. However, even they have not rid themselves of discrimination against ethnic minorities and racial and national prejudices.

What is the purpose of this perhaps somewhat simplified gradation in a sphere as complex as human rights. Next year the United Nations intends holding a World Conference on Human Rights. In the Russian delegation's viewpoint, the attempt to somehow systematize the situation in the world from the standpoint of human rights will make it possible to render the UN Commission's decisions commensurate with the degree of violation and remove the grounds for accusations of selectiveness toward one country or, another.

Even at this session Russia set an example of a balanced and differentiated approach, as Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman T. Ramishvili put it. This applies primarily to the Near East and Southern Africa. Russian parliamentarians, of course, intend promoting the Near East settlement but they cannot close their eyes to human rights violations both in Israel (the deportation of Arabs and the construction of settlements in the occupied territories) and among Israel's Arab opponents whose policy clearly shows signs of totalitarianism.

In addition, Russia has openly declared its unwillingness to support those decisions and individual provisions of the resolution which were dictated by purely political considerations and not concern for human rights. Specifically, it refused to back the demands of a number of African and Arab countries to continue sanctions against South Africa. Today, Russia's representatives believe, such sanctions hit primarily the supporters of reforms in South Africa.

Finally, the innovation in Russia's stance at the present session of UN Human Rights Commission lies in its readiness to listen to criticism. S. Kovalev's report paid unprecedented attention to human rights violations on the territory of Russia itself, a fact which marked this report out favorably from the majority of the other speeches.

Consensus on Nagorno-Karabakh Not Achieved

The delegation admitted to the world community that Russia is seriously lagging behind in real support for basic human rights and freedoms. Just one document at the Moscow CSCE conference revealed over 20 of our omissions in this sphere, including that of legislation. The main cause for alarm is that so far there has been no radical change in reorienting the legal system toward the protection of human rights and interests.

The session also mentioned the kind of violations that the commission's members would hardly have guessed at. For example, it was said that North Korean citizens working in Russia are in effect slaves. Their passports are taken away from them and all their actions are monitored by the North Korean special services. Malcontents are punished, they are hunted down on Russian territory and forcibly repatriated. At a number of enterprises in Maritime Kray and the Far East there are security services functioning autonomously from the Russian authorities with their own prisons and concentration camps where "recalcitrants" are kept.

The Russian authorities are also concerned at the position of our fellow countrymen abroad, especially in those countries where the human rights situation generally is unfavorable. Until the state adopts legislative and other measures to protect its citizens wherever they live, S. Kovalev stated, it cannot consider itself democratic.

Russia is suffering not just from a legal vacuum. Even now, as the session noted, the imperfection of the laws adopted by the new Russian parliament is obvious.

The same applies to the problem of refugees in Russia who number hundreds of thousands. Their status has still not been regulated by law and the draft of the law in question was rejected at a very early stage.

It was also noted that there is an increasing number of human rights violations on interethnic [mezhetnicheskiy] and national [mezhnatsionalnyy] grounds as in Tatarstan, Checheno-Ingushetia, North Ossetia, and Dagestan.

Special attention, both at the sessions themselves and behind the scenes at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, was paid to the war in Nagorno-Karabakh. However, Russia's participation in discussing this theme was not decisive. Russian parliamentarians clearly let it be

known that in view of the complex situation their country cannot play an active role in settling the bloody conflict without arousing opposition from one of the warring sides.

What did other countries say? The representatives of the 12 EC states showed special concern. Nevertheless, they, too, recognized that the world community is still not ready to use in interethnic conflicts mechanisms which are being successfully applied in interstate conflicts.

As a result consensus was not achieved on Nagorno-Karabakh. Meanwhile, even while the commission was at work, the military conflict in that region began to reach such a pitch that delegates increasingly often began talking of it as an interstate confrontation in which the 1949 Geneva conventions on protecting the victims of war are not being observed, leading to a grotesque violation of human rights including mankind's most sacred right—the right to life.

The prospects for a settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh seem dim even to eminent experts. One thing is clear though, there must be coordinated measures by the world community to prevent a bloodbath, Asbjorn Eide, director of the Institute of Human Rights in Norway, said. A thorough settlement of the conflict should perhaps be left to later generations.

Vladimir Lukin Views U.S. Ambassadorship

924C0842A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Mar 92 p 4

[Interview with Russian Ambassador to the United States Vladimir Lukin conducted by Sergey Parkhomenko: "First Russian Ambassador Appointed by Yeltsin Personally" subtitled "Vladimir Lukin Left for His New Appointment on Saturday"]

[Text] [Parkhomenko] Vladimir Petrovich, it seems to me that this is now the second instance of the pursuit of a somewhat paradoxical personnel policy in Russian diplomacy. Yuriy Alekseyevich Ryzhov was, until recently, Russia's ambassador to France. You are leaving for the United States. What is this, "in- depth personnel reform"? Are they simply signs of the fatigue of the new wave politicians?

[Lukin] You know, the Russian mentality is such that a conspiracy theory is always the first thing that comes to mind. I call this effect the "Ivan the Terrible mentality." We cannot believe that there are "individual instances"—simply that. It is generally believed that three grains make a pile but we have only two such examples as yet.

[Parkhomenko] Exceedingly big grains. Nuts, I would say, rather.... Does this not mean that the president of Russia simply has very few people he can trust? And is for this reason forced to sacrifice the best people.

[Lukin] The British philosopher Young said: "It is hard talking about oneself for any length of time without succumbing to vanity." You are inciting me to this. But, joking aside, Ryzhov is, of course, a splendid person. I greatly respect him. He was appointed ambassador by Gorbachev, as is known. Yeltsin only confirmed him. But he has in practice not once revoked such appointments of the former president of the USSR. Why, for example, do you not mention Pankin? Why not Bovin?

And I, as distinct from them, was appointed by Yeltsin directly. Why? Only he himself could explain precisely. But were you to ask me, I would reply that generally I agree with the choice of Boris Nikolayevich. What is needed here is evidently a sum total of technologies, a person was required with both, knowledge of America and sincere wishes to do things useful for democratic Russia —this is very important. "On account of historical experience," so to speak, I have such a sum total of technologies and skills. There are, of course, many professionals who could certainly have done this job better than I even. But I had the total package. Perhaps a certain trust on the part of the president was reflected inasmuch as at difficult moments I have always sustained a very definite position.

[Parkhomenko] It is said that during your meeting with Yeltsin you told him that in America you would be representing the president, the parliament, and the government.

[Lukin] We had a very good conversation. I expressed, as this is called in such instances, certain of my constructive, but at the same time problem-causing thoughts apropos the need for reform of the Foreign Ministry. Boris Nikolayevich agreed with some of them.

[Parkhomenko] For example?

[Lukin] Well, for example, however odd it might have seemed to him, perhaps, to be hearing this from me, that Russia's foreign policy should not be concentrate so much in the American direction. That it should be more intensive, but not reactive. That it is necessary to be consistent and that we should not create the feeling that we had made some gesture or other and had then forgotten about it....

[Parkhomenko] I am afraid of the totally discredited word "directive," but I would like to ask, for all that, whether you received anything of the sort from the president....

[Lukin] No. I would not speak about a directive. Neither I nor Boris Nikolayevich touched on any personal aspects in this conversation. It is another matter that by tradition both earlier, the Soviet ambassador, and now, the Russian ambassador, in America have, for all that, had particular functions: There are certain aspects connected with the nuclear status of our countries and with the special relationship of our presidents. Specifically, the ambassador in the United States has traditionally had particular opportunities for presenting information

to the country's top leadership. Boris Nikolayevich confirmed absolutely unequivocally that this tradition should be preserved. In addition, my candidacy was chosen by him precisely "with regard for" this tradition.

So it is agreed: On important matters I may, if necessary, notify directly the leadership of the country, the leadership of the Supreme Soviet, and the leadership of the government. Although this by no means signifies that I will not be a normal ambassador operating in the normal system of relationships of the Foreign Ministry. This will be the case, of course. It is essential that we have close cooperation with the minister, with his deputies and with the corresponding administration: This means immense day-to-day work.

[Parkhomenko] Until there are full-fledged diplomatic missions in the United States of the majority of CIS countries—and this will, in any event, be the case for quite some time—will you in fact be representing their interests?

[Lukin] I was appointed ambassador to America by decree of the president of the Russian Federation and legally I represent only the Russian state. But I would be very pleased, given an arrangement between Russia and other countries, if I were to be entrusted with representing to some extent or other the CIS as a whole or individual members of the Commonwealth. But, as far as I know, there have been no such requests as yet.

Furthermore, if some CIS country applies on its own initiative to the embassy for this assistance or the other, this assistance will, of course, be rendered, to the extent of the understanding of Russian interests, naturally. In just the same way I will always be ready to present an initiative to the Center for the granting of such assistance.

[Parkhomenko] That is, if it is one day ascertained that some question affects the interests of, say, Kazakhstan....

[Lukin] ...I would unfailingly notify the center that it is necessary to get in touch with Kazakhstan on this matter and would make the appropriate recommendations. I repeat, to the extent of my understanding of Russia's interests.... [changes thought]

Returning to the topic of the conversation with the president, I will say that I obtained the sanction for in a certain sense reorganizing the embassy in Washington so that its character corresponds to the actual character of the new Russia—a democratic state and at the same time that it be comprehensible to the Americans and be well received by them.

[Parkhomenko] This means that there is a big personnel purge in the offing?

[Lukin] This does not mean any purge at all. The point is that, as you know full well, embassy personnel are rotated every two, three, or four years (depending on diplomatic rank and such). At the present time approximately one-third of the staff have reached or are approaching the point where they are to be replaced. I believe, therefore, that it will be possible combining naturally the set of traditional, normal Foreign Ministry professionals, so to speak, with the invitation of entirely new people.

I have in mind here primarily the humanitarian direction. When I looked at the personnel lists of the candidates from the Foreign Ministry for various positions, I asked: Why do all these have such tarnished reputations—none has a single conviction, for example.... But to be serious, it is really essential that humanitarian issues be championed by people who have proven their devotion to these ideals, not to the detriment of professionalism, of course.

Second, incidentally, the press. I need one or two "press men" (or "press women," so to speak), aggressive in the good sense, with an ideal knowledge of the language, who could set forth our concepts in the American style, at the same time understanding that they are, for all that, part of the Foreign Ministry system.

Finally, in my opinion, the embassy needs one or two ladies. You yourself know that in America the percentage of female diplomats is entirely different, and they accept this procedure well.

Subsequently, as to content, so to speak, purely internal, qualitative personnel problems have to be resolved.

[Parkhomenko] You refer to a renunciation of the services of the employees of state security, who have hitherto worked under diplomatic cover?

[Lukin] It should not be forgotten here that no embassy can cope without security officers, announced officially, who are engaged in security and other matters....

[Parkhomenko] I am speaking primarily about Yevgeniy Primakov's department.

[Lukin] There is the necessary understanding between the Foreign Ministry and the Foreign Intelligence leadership, and this understanding has been appropriately established. I would put it this way; the situation will result in a civilized procedure. I am absolutely sure that the embassy in the United States will very soon have a perfectly civilized character, not at all that which was typical of our "post-Comintern" embassies.

I say this on the basis of the results of my discussion with Yevgeniy Maksimovich Primakov.

[Parkhomenko] If you will permit, now a little about the "personal." When Strauss was appointed U.S. ambassador to Moscow, there was an infinite amount of talk to the effect that it was dangerous entrusting such a responsible position to a person with a multitude of clearly expressed attachments, passions even. The Americans were at that time very worried about Strauss' liking for jet-black brunettes, poker, cigars, and spicy Creole cuisine....

[Lukin] I cannot stand any of this.

[Parkhomenko] But, nonetheless, you also do not seem much of a dry old stick. You do not feel the need to now renounce some habits, change some proclivities?

[Lukin] Never. And then, apparently, even parliament considered that there was a certain diplomatic aspect to my character: I was spoken of as a person who knows how to reach a compromise, knows how not to reduce professional and ideological disagreements to personal conflicts. I do not know whether this is entirely correct or not but it would seem to me that there is something of this in me.

As for passions.... as my friend, unfortunately now dead, the great poet David Samoylov, said:

"Oh, how late I understood

"the reason for my existence,

"Why vital blood my heart

"through my veins drives,

"And that vainly have I at times

"allowed my passions to subside,

"And that self-protection cannot be.

"And that self-protection cannot be..."

So nor will I henceforward protect myself, nor, incidentally, can Americans bear dry-stick diplomats.

Mongolian Premier Discusses Ties in Moscow

PM1003125392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Mar 92 First Edition p 7

[Report by Sergey Semendyayev under the "Visit" rubric: "New Substance of Old Contacts"]

[Text] The timing of the working visit to Moscow of Mongolian Prime Minister Dashiyn Byambasuren, which ended last Sunday, 8 March, almost coincided with that of his visit last year and, in fact, was mainly devoted to strengthening and expanding the trade, economic, scientific, and technical ties established at that time between Russia and Mongolia. As a consequence of the global changes that have occurred over the past year both within the former Soviet Union and in the world as a whole, many provisions of the intergovernmental protocol needed adjustments, additions, or a general revision. In this connection the Mongolian delegation met in the Russian capital with Russian Vice President A. Rutskoy; R. Abdulatipov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the country's parliament; and A. Shokhin, vice premier of the government.

Questions of developing trade and economic ties between the two countries and preserving the experience accumulated over long years of experience in opening up some deposits of energy carriers on Mongolian territory were discussed in the course of bilateral talks.

A bilateral intergovernmental commission on trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between Russia and Mongolia will also begin its work in April.

'Tacit Approval' of Cossack Role Questioned

PM1203114392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Report by Valeriy Vyzhutovich: "The Russian Authorities Are Not Condemning the Aggression"]

[Text] The truce in the Dnestr region is unlikely to be a lengthy one, it seems. Not only because this geopoliticial knot is already literally hemorrhaging as a result of the sides' chronic inability to unravel it by peaceful means. The crisis is aggravated by the persistent interference of a third force that has come to believe in the dubious possibility that the intricate tangle of problems can be cut by a flashing Cossack sword.

The Cossacks—following their long armed presence in the conflict zone—did not participate, of course, in the signing of the agreement on a cease-fire and the abandonment of murderous arguments in the dispute over the left bank of the Dnestr. But they did make a kind of amendment to the document, born of negotiations on 4 March, on the following day by sending a letter to the Russian president, the content of which is not strictly confidential, judging by a copy sent probably not only to IZVESTIYA. In the letter Union of Cossacks Hetman Aleksandr Martynov expresses indignation at the "Russian Government's unpatriotic policy" and demands the "adoption of resolute and tough measures to protect the Slavic peoples and all civilians in the Dnestr region."

We can accept the somewhat original tone of the message, putting it down to the revival of a tradition: The Zaporozhye, Don, and Kuban Cossacks have never bothered much with niceties when communicating with any "leadership," be it the sultan of Turkey or anyone else. But what it is difficult, impossible, I would say too dangerous to accept is the hetman's effort to saddle the political horse. This is the very area in which they are clearly on the wrong mount. It is not just a matter of the Cossacks' opposition—which would have been weird and unimaginable in days gone by—to the leader of the fatherland, than whom, as far as any Cossack captain or subcornet was concerned, there was no one higher except God.

Perhaps there lies behind the clumsy and sometimes crude interference in the very complex political conflict a subtle understanding of the situation, while the strong, ultimatum-like tone of the appeal is no more than an emphatic sign of a certain ingenuousness, entirely ritual, like, say, the fur hat and the baggy pants?

"Does your appeal to Yeltsin remain in force following the signing of the truce in the Dnestr region?" I asked Union of Cossacks Hetman Aleksandr Martynov.

[Martynov] "Yes, since its content is considerably broader."

[Vyzhutovich] "What does the promise to 'independently protect national honor and dignity' mean?"

[Martynov] "We will come to the aid of downtrodden Russian people, wherever they may live."

[Vyzhutovich] "By armed interference, as in the Dnestr region?"

[Martynov] "Precisely. If necessary..."

[Vyzhutovich] "But the former republics of the USSR are now sovereign, independent states. How can you imagine invading any of them?"

[Martynov] "Volunteers once went to Spain. Besides, the CIS has not been constituted. Consequently, no one has abolished the USSR. That is what we go on."

[Vyzhutovich] "Do you have the president's reply to your letter?"

[Martynov] "No. We were merely informed that it had been received."

[Vyzhutovich] "Do you know anything about the Russian Government's official reaction to the Cossacks' armed involvement in the Dnestr conflict?"

[Martynov] "There has been no official reaction so far."

[Vyzhutovich] To be frank, the last statement is discouraging. The Cossacks are establishing order in the Dnestr region today, and if we do not watch out they will be hastening to Tataria tomorrow to adjust the results of the upcoming referendum there; yet the Russian authorities have not said a word about this independent initiative, as if it were a Cossack song and dance ensemble performing on the political stage and not armed formations of sturdy, reckless, well-paid volunteers.

Is Russian Vice President Rutskoy's active public support for the Cossacks to be regarded as the official reaction to the independent efforts to sort out the situation in Moldova, automatically seen as Russian state interference in the affairs of a sovereign country? How else do we explain the ostentatious presence of dashing hetmans in fur hats and baggy pants at the January all-army conference—a state, certainly not public function like, for instance, the congress of civil and patriotic forces?

To put it bluntly, the Cossacks' participation in the Dnestr events is armed aggression against a sovereign state. Aggression encouraged—how else can it be regarded?—by the Russian Government, given that it did not find a way to stop it entirely or at least to officially condemn it. By failing to do either, the Russian authorities demonstrated, perhaps, not so much their powerlessness as their panic in the face of spontaneous movements in general and the Cossacks in particular. Does this not explain Rutskoy's public patronage of the national-patriots and the failure by the president himself thus far to express his opinion of them? Judging by the tacit approval of the events, it cannot be ruled out that the Russian state leaders are prepared, at what is for them a critical moment, to switch to the Cossack horse and act beneath the national-patriotic banner. If not, then why not say so? Why do they not use their authority to stop the Cossack freebooters and establish with their former Union neighbors genuine diplomatic relations based on the normns of international law?

The Russian authorities gain nothing by avoiding answering these and similar questions. They merely cause one to suspect them of harboring secret imperial ambitions. Whereas I believe that the real reason for the official silence on this matter is something else again—the dangerously long absence of a recognized state policy on Russians living in the former republics of the former Union. Until this policy is shaped and proclaimed with the utmost clarity, precluding all speculative interpretations, the Cossack squadrons' invasion of this or that sovereign country will be seen as a Kremlin directive.

Position on Libyan Cooperation With UN Noted

OW0603161892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1531 GMT 6 Mar 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP) feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As previously, Russia believes that Libya should act strictly in line with UN Resolution No. 731 and efficiently cooperate with the world community in investigating instances of international terrorism, a high-ranking Russian diplomat told DP.

Speaking about the Russian foreign minister's recent talks with his Libyan counterpart in Cairo, he confirmed that the Russian side had raised the question of "extending good services". Specifically, Libya was expected to pass to the UN secretary-general the persons suspected of committing terrorist acts in 1988 and 1989 in relation to an American and French air-liners. However, news came soon that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had actually rejected the compromise way of settling the problem with UN mediation.

As to the prospect for passing the matter to the International Court in the Hague, to which Libya had appealed, "we have made no statement on the score" said the Russian diplomat. In principle, however, the practice of appealing to the United Nation's judicial body implies agreement of all the parties concerned. In this case the International Court can consider the Libyan problem only if the US and Britain, above whose territory the incident involving the French airliner occurred in 1989, give their consent, he said.

Germany Reportedly To Pay Higher Gas Prices

LD1103131792 Moscow TASS in English 1229 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Belyaev]

[Text] Moscow, March 11 TASS—The German 'Verbundnerzgas' company will now pay for Russian gas at prices reached directly with the Russian 'Gazprom' facility, Stepan Derzhov, general director of the 'Gazpropm' company told TASS in an interview. Given Russia's precarious economic situation, Yegor Gaidar, vice premier of the Russian Government, and Victor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the 'Gazprom' management, informed the Federal Ministry of Economics that the German company should not rely on Russian fuel supplies at the previous low prices after March 1. The new conditions will give Russia profits estimated at about three billion German marks, which will help to improve gas extraction and transportation technologies. 45 per cent of the 'Verbundnerzgas' shares belong to the German 'Ruhrgas' company, which brought success to negotiations, basing on common interest not to destroy the experienced cooperation. German Minister of Economics Jurgen Moellemann welcomed the agreement to supply new federal districts with Russian gas, considering this to be the most important step towards future Russia-Germany cooperation in this field. The Russian 'Gasprom' facility is looking forward to strengthening its positions in Europe. In fact, it is the co-owner of a trade house engaged in direct fuel sales.

Sakhalin Receives $12 Billion in Credits

OW1203000892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1905 GMT 12 Mar 92

[From the "INTERFAX Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] With intermediary work by a group of Russian businessmen, the administration of Sakhalin Island (in Russia's Far East) has signed an agreement with one of Germany's investment foundations to receive 20 billion DM [German marks] ($12.15 billion) in 25-year credits. The "Sakhalin" State Investment Corporation on Developing Natural Resources, which is to be created to oversee the status of the Sakhain free economic zone, will have direct control over credits.

Vice Governor of Sakhalin Viktor Sirenko said that the credits were offered in the form of mortgages on the island's natural resources—oil, natural gas, fish and other ocean products. The credits will be repaid at no interest, although as of 1996 the German side must receive yearly profits of between 2.1 and 2.5 billion DM. The state corporation intends to pay back the credits by selling foreign countries extracted and processed natural resources, primarily oil and natural gas. Some of the funds received from these sales will be used to repay the German partner, while the remaining money will be invested in the development of the island's business and social infrastructure, including oil and gas refineries.

The agreement states that the first set of credits will be at the disposal of the Russian side as soon as the German partners receive an official guarantee from the Russian government. The next installment of credit will be sent no later than fall of 1994.

CONSEQUENCES FOR THE OIL AND GAS PROJECT ON THE SAKHALIN SHELF. If the Sakhalin administration receives the $12 billion in credit, the approach to developing the Sakhalin oil and gas shelf could change dramatically. The administration is one of the potential founders of the state corporation on natural esources.

The Japanese-American "Three M" consortium (Mitsui, Marathon, McDermott) is currently considered to be the potential recipient of the right to develop the shelf. The consortium has received permission from the Russian government to create a technical-economic plan for developing deposits on Sakhalin. Should the plan be approved, the consortium is expected to invest $17-19 billion in the development project over the next 25 years. The consortium may bring in profits of $9 to $16 billion from its share of natural gas and oil exports over that period.

Mr. Sirenko said that the German credit will allow Sakhalin to sign short-term (5-6 year) production-sharing contracts with western firms to purchase infrastructure for extracting, storing, and transporting oil and gas from the shelf. After that, Sakhalin will be able to convince virtually any western firm to develop the shelf.

If this kind of a project is put into action, Mr. Sirenko is convinced that by the year 2000 Russia will have complete control over all exports of Sakhalin oil and natural gas.

Argentina Accuses Ship Crew of Illegal Fishing

PM1003132392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev: "Our Fishing Ship Was Sailing Under 'Pirate's Flag'"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA has reported that an Argentine Navy patrol ship has arrested our fishing ship Sergey Kadanchik. Its crew is accused of illegal fishing off Argentine shores.

Back in 1966 Argentina extended its sovereignty to a 200-mile coastal zone. The maritime resources of the Argentine territorial waters are the property of the littoral state and understandably no one can exploit them without special authorization. The maritime resources of littoral waters within a zone of up to 12 miles from the shore can be exploited only by ships registered at the appropriate Argentine port and flying the Argentine flag. Foreign ships should also fly the Argentine flag when fishing outside these waters. But in the mid-eighties an

exception was made for Soviet and Bulgarian ships. By a 1986 agreement between our country and Argentina ships belonging to Russia (as the successor of the USSR are allowed under its flag to fish in the exclusive economic zone.

According to precise information from sources at the Russian Foreign Ministry and Fish Economy Committee, the Argentines are accusing our ship of two violations. First, it was sailing under the flag of the USSR—a country which does not exist. Russia in turn has passed a law on the state flag whereby ships registered on its territory should fly the Russian flag. The Russian Foreign Ministry has sent the foreign embassies in Moscow a note announcing that as of 1 January 1992 the state flag of the Russian Federation is being flown on ships registered on Russian territory.

In the opinion of Professor K. Bekyashev, an expert on questions of the international law of the sea, the ship did indeed violate the norms of international law and Russian legislation. In accordance with the UN convention on the law of the sea, the ship should have changed its flag if the right of ownership is indeed transferred or there is a change in registration. The leadership of the Novorossiysk fisheries, with which the ship is registered, has seriously let down the ship's crew by failing to inform them and to demand that the flag be changed. It is to blame for the fact that the Soviet flag has become a pirate flag.

If the appropriate Argentine authorities succeed in proving (and that is the way everything is going) that there has been an instance of poaching, the ship may be fined up to $100,000 or the equivalent in Argentine currency at the exchange rate operating at the time the fine was imposed, which the ship owner will have to pay. The Sergey Kadanchik is also threatened with the confiscation of all 400 tonnes of illegally fished shrimps worth $600,000 and of expensive fishing tackle and equipment.

Specialists note that the ships of the CIS members are firmly occupying a leading position in world statistics relating to violators of the laws and rules of littoral states. That is entirely explainable. Right now in the Commonwealth there is no interstate organ for the coordination of navigation and fishing in the world oceans. He who has violated this system will soon realize that ensuring safety and coordinating work under maritime conditions is a very serious matter, since the consequences of violations strike a very painful blow to the ship owner and to the country as a whole.

Federation Affairs

Decree for Payments to Needy Citizens Issued

PM1103120392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Mar 92 First Edition p 5

[Decree No. 208 of the Russian Federation President "On One-Time Payments in February-March 1992 to Low-Income Groups of the Population," under the "Official Section" rubric, signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated Moscow, the Kremlin, 29 February 1992]

[Text] In order to provide social protection for low-income groups of the population I resolve:

1. To make one-time payments in February-March 1992 of:

a) 200 rubles [R] to pensioners receiving a pension on account of old age, invalidity, the loss of a breadwinner, or the completion of service, or social pensions;

b) R100 for each child:
when a child is being cared for until it is 18 months old;
for children of servicemen on compulsory service;
for children under guardianship, provided that the benefit is designated for the guardians;
for children of single mothers;
for children aged up to 16 years infected with HIV or suffering from AIDS;
for children whose parents are evading alimony payment, or in other cases provided for by legislation when the recovery of alimony is not possible;
for children aged from 18 months to six years;

c) R50:
for each child aged up to 16 years not receiving benefits and pensions under the current social welfare system and not fully maintained by state security (pupils at general education day schools irrespective of age, and pupils aged up to 18 years at other types of state day educational institutions not receiving grants);
to a nonworking able-bodied person caring for a Group I invalid or for aged people needing constant outside care on the basis of a medical institution's certification, and also for an invalid child aged up to 16 years;
to mothers (or other relatives effectively caring for a child) under hired labor contract with enterprises, institutions, and organizations of all forms of ownership, to servicewomen, and to those on leave caring for a child until it is three years old;
to nonworking wives of servicemen and of people on the rank and file and managerial staff of the internal affairs organs in remote garrisons and localities where there is no chance of finding them a job;
to citizens registered at the state employment service as people seeking work, during the period of their professional training, enhancement of qualifications, or retraining, in addition to their grant;
to citizens declared unemployed in the prescribed manner, in addition to unemployment benefit.

2. It is laid down that the one-time payments stipulated by this decree are made from the sources from which the corresponding main payments are made.

3. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, jointly with the Russian Federation Central Bank, will make available the cash for the social payments established by

current legislation, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Communications will ensure their timely delivery to recipients.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

Moscow, The Kremlin, 29 February 1992

Yeltsin Spring Sowing, Harvesting Decree

PM1103131592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Mar 92 First Edition p 2

[Russian Federation President's Decree No. 215 "On Measures To Ensure the Organized Spring Sowing and Harvesting in 1992"]

[Text] With a view to ensuring the organized spring sowing and preparation for the 1992 harvest, improving food supplies for the population, and increasing the effectiveness of the use of land resources, I decree:

1. That the Councils of Ministers of the republics within the Russian Federation, the kray, oblast, autonomous formation, and rayon organs of executive power, repair, processing, and transport enterprises, and procurement organizations take the necessary measures for the timely implementation of spring field work and preparation for the harvest.

In the process of reorganizing the kolkhozes [collective farms] and sovkhozes [state farms] no reduction of the areas sown to agricultural crops must be allowed, with personal responsibility for this being placed on the heads of the local administrations. The maximum aid must be given to peasant (individual) farms in the repair of equipment and the production and restoration of spare parts at local industrial enterprises.

There must be authorization, on mutually advantageous contract terms, for enlisting to feed procurement and the harvest trucks and their drivers irrespective of what department they belong to and of the form of ownership and for enlisting the population of cities and workers' settlement, workers at industrial enterprises, institutions, and organizations, students at higher educational establishments and pupils in the senior grades of secondary specialized educational establishments (except for graduation years) and also pupils and vocational and technical colleges.

2. The Russian Federation state committee for defense questions in collaboration with the CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Command by agreement with the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture must ensure that 20,000 trucks with drivers are sent to bring in the harvest.

The Councils of Ministers of the republics within the Russian Federation, the organs of executive power of the krays, oblasts, autonomous formations, and cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg in collaboration with the CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Command must call from the reserve via the military commissariats for a period of four months the necessary number of reserve personnel with a military service obligation to staff (or bring up to strength) the motor transport battalions in the places where they are formed, irrespective of the regions in which work is being performed on Russian territory.

3. The Russian Federation Government must determine measures for rendering aid in the form of trucks to agricultural regions which are not providing the harvest with motor transport from local enterprises and organizations, using interoblast transfers from industrial centers and cities.

4. The Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy and the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy must provide for the production and delivery to the Russian Federation Ministry of Transport of 270,000 tonnes of aviation gasoline in 1992. The Russian Federation Ministry of Transport must meet as a priority the requirements of agricultural aircraft for aviation gasoline.

5. The Russian Federation ministries and departments must take the necessary measures to complete in March the conclusion of contracts by enterprises, organizations, and associations, irrespective of forms of ownership and the delivery by 1 September 1992 of trucks, tractors, feed procurement and harvesting equipment, fuel and lubricants, spare parts, rolled metal, pipes, tires, batteries, polyethylene film, and other material and technical resources for peasant (individual) farms, kolkhozes, and sovkhozes in volumes agreed with the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Trade and Material Resources, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy must find and deliver to the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture by the start of the field work an additional 400,000 tires for trucks, 300,000 tonnes of automobile gasoline, 100,000 tonnes of diesel fuel, and 30,000 tonnes of group G, D, and E diesel oils.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations must purchase in the first half of 1992 400,000 batteries of the 6 st-132-180 type and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances must provide for the corresponding currency finance.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with the Russian Federation Ministry of Trade and Material Resources must ensure the conclusion of contracts by 1 May 1992 for the delivery of agricultural produce in volumes no lower than envisaged for state needs.

6. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances and the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy in conjunction with the Russian republican agricultural bank, the Russian Federation Savings Bank, and other commercial banks must find an opportunity for issuing priority credits to peasant (individual) farms, kolkhozes, sovkhozes, processing, technical repair, supply, and

other agricultural enterprises and formations in volumes ensuring the implementation of field and harvesting work.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances must allocate to the Russian republican agricultural bank and other commercial banks appropriations from the budget to pay 12 percent of the interest for the use of credits.

Loans must be issued irrespective of charges on previously issued credits and they must be paid off on a priority basis as agricultural enterprises sell their output.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances in conjunction with the Russian Federation Central Bank must ensure that centralized credit resources for these purposes are allocated to the Russian republican agricultural bank and other commercial banks.

7. The Russian Federation Ministry of Trade and Material Resources committee for bread products and the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture must allocate 150,000 tonnes of spring grain crop seeds from state stocks to kolkhozes and sovkhozes for resowing perished winter crops and to citizens' individual and private auxiliary farms. Seeds for individual farms must be released at purchase prices set for 1991, with compensation for expenses to enterprises of the Russian Federation Ministry of Trade and Material Resources committee for bread products from the budget of the Russian Federation on the basis of the results of the actual purchase of seeds by individual farmers.

8. The Russian Federation Ministry of Railways must carry out the relevant preparation of the material and technical base for shipments of agricultural produce from the 1992 harvest. It must ensure on a priority basis the shipment, for the needs of agriculture, of automobile and tractor equipment, spare parts, fuel and lubricants, and also of all agricultural freight.

9. The Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances in conjunction with the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture and the Russian Federation Government's state committee for land reform must resolve with a month the question of sources of compensation for the expenses incurred by all land users on the application of lime, phosphates, and gypsum, the digging and application of turf, and the land reclamation and primary cultivation of land.

10. The Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances must provide for the allocation for 1992 to the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture of currency funds from the republican currency reserve for the purchase of machinery, equipment, spare parts, chemical plant protection agents, and other material and technical resources necessary for performing the spring sowing and bringing in the harvest.

11. The Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences must elaborate a "Russian Grain" state program by 15 May 1992 and submit it for approval by the Russian Federation Government and provide for effective measures to encourage the commercial production and use of grain with a view to substantially reducing imports.

12. Enterprises and organizations of the Russian Federation agro-industrial complex must be exempted from the payment of customs duty when supplying for export goods in the range and volumes agreed with the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations when conducting exchange and purchase and barter operations for the delivery of pesticides, mineral fertilizers, agricultural crop seeds, equipment, and machinery for agriculture.

13. The decree enters into force from the moment it is signed.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin, Moscow, Kremlin, 29 February 1992.

Adviser Urges 'Tougher' Government Stance

PM1003103192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Mar 92 First Edition p 5

[Interview with A.I. Rakitov, adviser to Russian president, by Yevgeniy Panov under the "Viewpoint" rubric; place and date not given: "Anatoliy Rakitov: Either a Breakthrough to a New Society or a Return to the Camps. There Is No Third Option. This Is How an Adviser to the Russian Federation President Describes the Situation Today"]

[Text] [Panov] Anatoliy Ilich, two months of reform lie behind us. The government is keeping to its line under critical fire, although not everything now depends on its actions. There is also the attitude of society to the reform, and there is the internal logic of the process. These three components determine the situation. What, in your opinion, are its most important features?

[Rakitov] It is a situation of choice. There are just two possibilities before us: Either we make a breakthrough to a new state of society through incredible difficulties, or we return to the times of the gulag.

[Panov] Does the fact that the reform was begun not attest to a choice?

[Rakitov] The government began the reform. But society was poorly prepared for it. Leaf through three-month-old newspapers. What did they write about the reform? Increased prices, one thing and another... But who could have imagined prices jumping 20-25 times?! Who could have forecast such a sharp social stratification?! But those very people who in August were chanting "Yeltsin,

Yeltsin!" are now shouting "Down with Yeltsin!" The press has begun to fuss, and the democrats are split.

But has Yeltsin really turned into anti-Yeltsin in the space of five months? No, it is simply that society has been faced with totally unprecedented tasks. Compared with them, the former ones seem trivial. In the old days the public conscience was fed on sweet, thin gruel. Oh, Ligachev took bribes!... What trifles. The conscience is now having to grind coarse grain: The reform has hit old women terribly hard; nothing can be done; there will be no going back, except to the concentration camp; and we have to go through all this.

[Panov] A terrible choice. Society really could not have imagined such a thing. It should have been foreseen by the government, which threw an ill-prepared country into reform.

[Rakitov] Notice a very interesting detail: The government consists of nonprofessionals. Not in the sense of competence but in the sense of the kind of activity. There are hardly any professional statesmen among the present ministers. Ryzhkov, Silayev, and Pavlov were professional administrators and very experienced bureaucrats. Abalkin was a professional economist. For seven years they talked about reforms, but they were never able to start them. Only nonprofessionals have proved capable of doing so. Only those who had not been cooked in the nomenklatura pot. Only they were bold enough to operate without anesthetics.

Have they made mistakes? Plenty. Is it possible to accuse them of incompetence? If you wish. But imagine: A patient is dying of an abscess, but the physicians gathered by his bed are holding an academic debate about which scalpel to cut with and how to sterilize it. Along comes an orderly with a crooked knife and lances the swelling. A barbaric method, but the patient will die otherwise... Maybe a different analogy would be more correct. We know of cases where surgeons have performed abdominal operations on themselves. Without anesthesia. Lying on their back. Looking in a mirror. So, our society is performing an abdominal operation on itself. The surgeons saw them through to the end. We must see the refo ·s through to the end. At any price. Scum, what are yc , doing to people?—people yell at the government from all sides. But if the surgeon's hand trembles, he will kill the patient.

[Panov] Is it really not possible to have any anesthesia?

[Rakitov] It is possible. On a personal level. A person must say to himself: I must brace myself and endure it. If everyone understands this for himself, the consolidation of society that is so essential now will come about. But it is shameful to gloat over failures. What is there to rejoice at there?

[Panov] The opinion exists that it would take little effort to bring this government down. Does this mean the opposition is lazy? Badly organized? Or, contrary to conjectures, is the government stable because it is, at last, the long-awaited centrist government? Both left-wingers and right-wingers oppose it with equal bitterness.

[Rakitov] Standard terminology prevents an understanding of a nonstandard situation. Employing the usual terms, I would define the cabinet's orientation as left-centrist. In principle the present ministers are democrats. Their personal political views are hardly significant, because the government is engaged in resolving specific tasks, not in balancing between "right-wingers" and "left-wingers." The left-wing opposition is headed by aggrieved democratic leaders who did not receive after the August events the ministerial portfolios they considered their due. The right-wing opposition is, of course, made up of communists headed by the nomenklatura, which has lost a great deal.

But, I repeat, I would abandon standard terminology and evaluate the forces operating today as proreform and antireform. The proreform forces have a broader base. At the same time there is also the government's social base. There are the sections and groups of society whose active or passive support made possible the initial stage of the transformations—perestroyka.

[Panov] Do you think the antireform forces can consolidate, despite all the diversity of movements, parties, and platforms and despite the fundamental disagreements over the land question, for example, between communists and "patriots"?

[Rakitov] Land privatization is now opposed not only by champions of the "socialist option" in the shape of the rural bureaucracy but also by collective farm members themselves. The peasant is safer on the collective farm, and inflation and barter are advantageous to him. "Hunger marches" and political demonstrations of various hues are features of city life, while things are quiet in the countryside...

It is a nonstandard situation. "Right-wingers" and "left-wingers" are nothing more than cliches. Political demagoguery and talk of the good of the people merely mask the struggle for power and for the CPSU's capital. Here an alliance of all antireform forces is perfectly possible.

[Panov] The democrats themselves are doing quite a lot to assist their cohesion. In some sort of frenzy, they endlessly frighten themselves and society with talk of a "red-brown plague." Shevardnadze is once again prophesying a new putsch. The democrats seem to be ready to order a church service against the coming of a dictator. What is going on, Anatoliy Ilich? Has the burden of power and responsibility proved too much for them?

[Rakitov] It is not the democrats or the intelligentsia who are being hysterical but quite different people—those who were taken in. Hence the delirium. That same Shevardnadze was a member of the nomenklatura elite, one of the top persons in the communist state, and one of the government's chief ministers. But the government's task is to prevent putsches or at any rate try to overcome

them, if only because putschists always seek the overthrow of governments. Shevardnadze was obliged to try to prevent possible putsches. To warn and then resign handsomely—that is strange, to say the least, for a minister. However, the August events were also out of the ordinary. The prime minister and ministers took an active part in them. So essentially it was not a putsch but a palace coup directed against a weak president.

If a putsch were to happen today, it would be directed unequivocally against the government. Therefore prophecies about a coming dictatorship can only be perceived as calls to bring down the cabinet. To whom are they addressed? Not to the army, I believe, but to those same antireform forces. It is clear which kind of dictator they dream of. One who will rout enemies, restore the empire, and resolve national problems—according to Stalin's prescription. Could a section of the exhausted people follow them? It could. Mass psychoses in a population, nationalist hysteria—none of this is new to history. Enemies have been routed, and piles of corpses have been heaped up, but this has not made things any easier.

When the intelligentsia starts to dream of a dictatorship, it has in mind a figure like Pinochet, capable of carrying out reforms with an iron hand. And yet this can also be done by a legally elected president, not only by a general who has usurped power. Underpinned by the law and using all his powers, the president can take the most drastic measures against corruption or the embezzlement of food. That will be social justice. Therefore, I believe, the government must become tougher.

'Separatist' Intentions of Tatarstan Viewed

LD0903163392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Vyacheslav Solovyev Commentary]

[Text] To prevent Russia from following the fate of the Soviet Union was the keynote of speeches by most participants in a meeting of the Constitutional Commission of the Russian Federation held in Moscow over the weekend.

Why have politicians, experts and, journalists been increasingly expressing concern of late over the future of the Russian Federation? The immediate reason for that is the intention of the authorities of Tatarstan—a republic within Russia - to hold a referendum on the 21st of this month. On the ballot papers there is only one question: Do you agree that the Republic of Tatarstan is a sovereign state, a subject of international law, building its relations with the Russian Federation and other republics and states on the basis of equal treaties.

Now a positive answer to this entangled, and, in the opinion of many, improper question, can be used by the separatist forces in Tatarstan to back up their line for breaking off the centuries-old relations of the Tatar people with the other peoples and of seceding from the Russian Federation.

This point is made with concern in an appeal from the Russian parliament to the people, the parliament and the President of the Republic of Tatarstan—and not only because it will aggravate the relations between the Tatar and Russian-speaking communities in the republic which are roughly equal and may worsen in turn the situation in other regions where there are Tatar communities.

A positive outcome of the referendum may trigger off similar centrifugal processes in the entire Russian Federation. Actually, within the past month, demands for secession from Russia have been made by other formerly autonomous structures, such as Bashkortostan, Yakut-Sakha, Komi and even Karelia, where the share of the indigenous population is small.

Of course, the actions by these republics can be regarded as a way of putting pressure on the Russian center in order to gain some sort of economic advantages. But the record of the breakup of the Soviet Union shows that the borderline between economic demands and separatist aspirations is very thin and can be easily broken.

If these republics follow Tatarstan's suit it may give a big push to the disintegration processes in Russia and complicate its establishment and strengthening as a single whole state. Therefore the anxiety voiced lately over the intentions of the Tatarstan authorities is quite justified. It's really the number one problem now to prevent the breakup of the Russian Federation. It was timely in view of this for the Russian parliament to have issued a call to formulate and seal intrastate relations in a federal treaty and a new democratic constitution of the Russian Federation.

Now the main thing about this treaty is sharing powers between Moscow and the national entities and so turning Russia into a real federation. The ball is now in the court of the policy makers of the former autonomies. And it depends on their wisdom and readiness for compromise whether it will be possible to prevent the breakup of the Russian state.

Rutskoy: Breakup Would Be 'Like Death'

LD1103203792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1920 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Mar (TASS)—"The breaking up of Russia is like death. And not only for us, but also for mankind. It is the death of the world," Aleksandr Rutskoy, vice president of the Russian Federation, believes. Today his appeal to his fellow countrymen has been circulated here which is devoted to the issue of Tatarstan's state independence, a referendum of which is scheduled for 21 March in the sovereign republic.

With his appeal Aleksandr Rutskoy is trying to explain to the country that the disintegration of Russia, as occurred with the USSR, is inadmissible. "Russia is not an

accidental conglomeration of territories and tribes, but a living, historical organism, which is not destined for arbitrary dismemberment," he stresses.

"As a Russian, as a citizen of Russia, as a soldier, and as a state official I cannot keep quiet on the latest events in sovereign Tatarstan, on the outcome of which the fate of Russia depends," the vice president's appeal says. "It is a most important matter—the existence of our peoples and the existence of a 1,000-year-old unique state uniting Europe and Asia."

Nationalist opposition on the basis of "what's mine is mine and what's yours is yours" is fraught with unpredictable consequences, Aleksandr Rutskoy reminds people. Short-sighted politicians satisfying their ambitions by winning cheap popularity by playing the "nationality issue" cards will inescapably become the victims of this bloody game.

Burbulis Supports Return of German Autonomy

LD0603234292 Moscow TASS in English 1947 GMT 6 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Chistyakov]

[Text] Bonn March 6 TASS—First Deputy Russian Prime Minister and State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis told the German DPA News Agency today they have enough power and wisdom to achieve the fulfilment of a plan of stage-by-stage restoration of Russian Germans' statehood.

Burbulis confirmed the intention of the Russian cabinet to restore the German autonomy in the Volga region even if the local population does not support this program.

A certain tension that arose after the publication of President Yeltsin's decree on emergency measures to rehabilitate Russian Germans will soon be overcome, said the Russian official.

The vice premier noted the idea of German autonomy's restoration has much more supporters than opponents, substantiating his pronouncement with a decision on the formation of a German national district in the Omsk region on the basis of results of a public opinion poll.

Burbulis stressed rights of the local population should not be infringed during the fulfilment of plans to create German autonomies in the Saratov and Volgograd regions.

He recalled that the German Government has expressed the readiness to support this project by allocating considerable finances for its fulfilment. In the opinion of the Russian vice premier they will be also used in the interests of the local population.

Gaydar Defends Difficult Economic Reforms

AU0903151592 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 9 Mar 92 pp 180-184

[Interview with Russian Deputy Premier Yegor Timurovich Gaydar by Joerg R. Mettke and Christian Neef in Moscow; date not given: "It Is Bordering on National Bankruptcy"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Yegor Timurovich, in the eyes of many you are the one who made butter 40 times more expensive. How long will you remain in office?

[Gaydar] There is only one taboo in our government—talking about resignation.

[DER SPIEGEL] Reform economist Nikolay Petrakov gives you only one month more at best.

[Gaydar] So far it was said that we would not survive February. Now it is already March.

[DER SPIEGEL] The release of the prices at the beginning of the year benefited the powerful state monopolies above all.

[Gaydar] Before there is a real market price, it is very difficult to judge who acts as a monopolist and really hurts the consumer with his prices. Many monopolies are also in a difficult situation because the demand for their services and products has declined sharply—for instance our airline Aeroflot, or the producers of agricultural machinery, who are no longer able to sell their products, which are too expensive.

[DER SPIEGEL] Production continues to decline everywhere; for consumer goods it declined by 15 percent in January alone. In the rural areas dairy stock is being slaughtered because there are no feedstuffs. Where do you see the economic upswing, which you keep referring to?

[Gaydar] Quite simple. In all formerly communist states in Eastern Europe the introduction of market mechanisms and the stabilization of finances has been accompanied by a decline in production. This has happened even in the former GDR, for which a very quick improvement was predicted because of the seemingly inexhaustible financial resources of western Germany. In the CSFR industrial production has declined by 22 percent, in Bulgaria by 20 percent, in Poland even by one-third since 1989. What do you expect from us, in view of this?

[DER SPIEGEL] In the former GDR a strong competition entered the market and the east German producers could no longer sell their goods. In your country the monopolies are reducing production because they still earn a profit thanks to Gaydar's raised prices.

[Gaydar] Our measures did not provoke the decline in production. This decline started already at the end of 1989. And we have succeeded in ensuring that from the end of last year until now this process has no longer been

accelerated. In February average daily production even increased. And a number of industrial companies in our country must certainly expect competition on the consumer market.

[DER SPIEGEL] I beg your pardon?

[Gaydar] You are hearing correctly. For three weeks directors have repeatedly complained that their products are simply no longer bought.

[DER SPIEGEL] Can you give us some examples?

[Gaydar] Lots. Yesterday the paper producers were here, they complained about a lack of sales, and demanded favorable loans.

[DER SPIEGEL] Because hardly any publishing company is able to pay their prices of 19,000 rubles per tonne of paper for newspapers. Therefore, your President Boris Yeltsin has suddenly remembered the command economy and has ordered subsidies in order to prevent the mass dying of newspapers.

[Gaydar] This is another topic. Our newspapers have always been too cheap, and the public has got used to that; they cannot survive in the market economy.

[DER SPIEGEL] What is now available in excess in the classic country of deficits—or to put it another way: What has become so expensive that potential customers can no longer buy it?

[Gaydar] Mining companies are also demanding additional loans. Nobody buys refrigerators and television sets anymore. Because of the scarcity of money, companies deliver only if the goods are paid for immediately. Crude oil cannot be sold at all at free prices; exports are working, but demand on the domestic market is very limited.

[DER SPIEGEL] Therefore, prices would have to decline quickly. You are proud of the fact that at Moscow's bank counters the German mark or the dollar cost only half as many rubles as at the beginning of the year. But what does this say about the state of the Russian economy?

[Gaydar] This only says something about the state of finances, about the circulation of money—if you like: about the trends of expected inflation.

[DER SPIEGEL] For the time being, you have the hardly desirable effect that many companies can no longer pay wages because they do not have any cash. According to information obtained by us, the companies already owe 20 billion rubles to their employees, the state can no longer pay its soldiers and policemen.

[Gaydar] Your figures are not exact. The cash deficit reached its peak last December and this was due to the fact that the emission of money was not adjusted to the high inflation rate. Large ruble denominations—100-ruble bills, 200-ruble bills, and 500-ruble bills—were issued too slowly. At that time my telephones kept ringing constantly because there was no money to pay wages anywhere. But in January the situation began to normalize. In February the climax of the cash crisis was overcome and since then these wage debts have declined strongly.

[DER SPIEGEL] Your critics suspect that the policy of the scarce ruble is only aimed at impressing the IMF observers.

[Gaydar] This might be a useful and effective strategy. But, unfortunately, we do not have the foreign currency reserves necessary for such a game. The interventions of the Russian Central Bank were minimal; the effect really is that of an internal strengthening of the ruble. The process of remonetarization started in January. After the long phase of barter trade— cars for coal, coal for refrigerators, refrigerators for whatever else—money is again beginning to play its natural role in our economy.

[DER SPIEGEL] You think that the fear of hyperinflation has been overcome?

[Gaydar] Yes. The high dollar exchange rate until the end of last year—170 to 230 rubles per dollar at auctions—had nothing to do with the real purchasing power, but was only due to panic, distrust, and fear of this hyperinflation, which did not come about after all.

[DER SPIEGEL] You are recommending western companies to make large, even gigantic investments in Russia. Why are you not able to establish reliable conditions and legal security for foreign capital?

[Gaydar] I am certainly aware of the fact that large investments cannot be expected during inflation....

[DER SPIEGEL]...which you are fanning by a so-called value-added tax of 28 percent.

[Gaydar] This tax does not hinder investments; it has to be paid by the consumers.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you think it is okay that at the moment foreigners must queue up for hours in Moscow to get the national Russian currency and then they get the maximum amount of $100 exchanged in the end?

[Gaydar] This is terrible, I am almost breaking into tears. But permit me to find the former situation even more terrible, when one could not buy any dollars at all for no matter how many rubles.

[DER SPIEGEL] Can you at least spare a tear for foreign businessmen in Moscow, almost all of whom are forced to be clients of your foreign trade bank, are not able to dispose of their own money, and are meanwhile openly speaking of fraud and economic hostage taking?

[Gaydar] This is understandable and a very serious problem. This is linked with the foreign debts of the former Soviet Union. You will remember that our foreign creditors, above all the G7 states, demanded from

us that we mobilize all our internal resources to pay these debts. Therefore, we have frozen the foreign currency accounts of all national companies at the Foreign Trade Bank.

[DER SPIEGEL] And thus also the joint venture capital of their foreign partners.

[Gaydar] That too, of course.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is this not bordering on fraud?

[Gaydar] It is bordering on national bankruptcy. The political crumbling of an empire like the USSR leads to such political and economic problems. Compared with other countries, our situation is not unique. We do recognize our liabilities toward joint ventures: These investments are to be turned into interest-bearing securities, which can also be traded on the market.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does this mean that foreign investors had better wait until the chaotic situation in your country has settled?

[Gaydar] Even though the influx of foreign investment capital will not be very high we are a promising market for the future. At the moment only those who are willing to incur risk are coming to us, and we appreciate their involvement. Those who want 100 percent safety invest in Switzerland.

[DER SPIEGEL] This obviously also applies to the Russian state enterprises. Last year they managed to get $14 billion out of the country, evading the state.

[Gaydar] We are worried about this capital flight and we are doing something to prevent it. According to a presidential decree, all foreign accounts must be licensed by our competent organs. Assets without license are confiscated within two months. For the practical side of this search for capital we have commissioned the best experts in this field—Croll Associates, who have already successfully helped other states with similar problems.

[DER SPIEGEL] Your reform program hits the weak strata of society hardest. Pensions are a long way below subsistence level; experts expect an increase of several million unemployed in Russia by the end of the year; the anti-government demonstrations are gaining followers. How long can you still maintain your shock therapy?

[Gaydar] Unemployment is not yet a serious problem. The figures are strongly exaggerated; however, they will increase during the second half of the year. It is also difficult to judge how far the standard of living has actually declined. In the past the people queued up for hours to get something for their money. Now we experience a gradual reorientation of the activities: from lines of customers....

[DER SPIEGEL] ...to long lines of those who want to sell something—often their last possessions—everywhere in the streets.

[Gaydar] ...to opportunities for earning money in one way or other. This is a healthy development after all.

[DER SPIEGEL] Yegor Timurovich, thank you for this interview.

Parties Form Coalition to Replace Cabinet

OW1203115892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1039 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Twenty-five parties and movements of Russia have formed a coalition to work for the replacement of the cabinet by a government of popular trust. The statement was made at a Wednesday [11 March] news conference in Moscow by the leaders of the Russian National Union (ROU), the Russian Communist Workers' Party (RCWP), the Officers' Union, the Socialist Party of Working People, the Union of Communists, the organizing committee of the sixth Congress of USSR People's Deputies and the Russian Party of National Revival.

The chairman of the ROU Sergey Baburin told a Wednesday news conference that the parties differing in political views are united by the necessity of preserving the Soviet Union.

The coalition favored the extraordinary Congress of USSR People's Deputies due to open in Moscow on March 17. The leader of the Working Russia movement and the RCWP Viktor Ampilov told IF [INTERFAX] that the congress should use all the powers it has under the USSR Constitution to make a decision on the restoration of a common state.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Officers' Union Stanislav Terekhov has told IF that the new coalition is sooner a declaration of intent than a reality and the congress nothing but a political demonstration. [paragraph as received]

In an interview with IF a former high-ranking functionary of the Communist Party Yegor Ligachev has called the coalition a step to the unification of communist forces. In his opinion the congress will help to shape a correct public opinion, but it will not be able to pass legislation for the absence of a quorum.

Plan to Attend Moscow Rally

LD1203110392 Moscow TASS in English 1613 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—Leaders of opposition parties, editors and deputies opposing Russian leadership held a campaign to unite their forces by creating the "Council of Opposition Parties" on Wednesday [11 March].

Representatives of the council told journalists that the new movement will be based on the principles of justice, popular support, statehood and patriotism.

The declaration announcing of [as received] the new movement was signed by 25 organisations including the Cossack Union and the public committee investigating Gorbachev's activity. Member of parliament Sergey Baburin who also joined the council said that this action is "the last hope to revitalise the united federative multinational state". He said the plea made by the Russian prosecutor general to the effect the organisers might go to court was "judicially inconsistent".

The organisers of the new movement said they intended to take part in the opposition rally scheduled for March 17 and added the Moscow and Russian leadership as well as the mass media who were engaged in intensifying the fuss and "provoking bloody events" will have to take the consequences.

Zhirinovskiy Favors Reoccupation of Republics

NC0603215592 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Yerevan, 5 Mar (ARMENPRES)—Levon Mutafyan, the Moscow correspondent for HAYASTAN newspaper, interviewed the leader of the Russian Liberal-Democratic Party, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, in Moscow.

Zhirinovskiy expressed his views on the situation in Transcaucasia, saying: Transcaucasia has always been one of the mainstays of the Russian empire. Gorbachev did not understand this and allowed nationalist turmoil to take shape there. The so-called democrats, who were sent there from Moscow, were responsible for this. Now we must immediately begin a siege on Georgia and Armenia, strangle every moving thing there, impose Moscow's rule, and sign a treaty with Turkey declaring that region as a passageway for Russia. Yeltsin does not understand that Georgia and Armenia have always been Russian lands and now must serve as border outposts. Any flirtation with the leaders of these republics must be excluded. The old Tbilisi and Yerevan provinces must be reinstated. By declaring those lands Russian, we would rapidly recoup our losses.

In discussing the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, Zhirinovskiy said there is no Karabakh problem; the whole thing is being maneuvered by a few people with special interests. Moscow has not lost its power to take the situation under full control. It is necessary to dissolve all the legislative structures, administrative organs, and the illegally declared Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and to consider that region as part of Azerbaijan. Peace must be established immediately with the use of the USSR Armed Forces. All other military units should be taken out of the region.

To a reporter's retort that the logical conclusion of Zhirinovskiy's argument would mean that Karabakh would not be declared a part of Azerbaijan but of Russia, in accordance with the Gulistan Treaty, he replied: Is Azerbaijan not a province of Russia as well?

Democratic Russia Movement To Adopt Program

LD1003142992 Moscow TASS in English 1236 GMT 10 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow March 10 [dateline as received]—The programme of Democratic Russia Movement, the first one in the history of this organisation, will be adopted by the plenum of the movement in St. Petersburg on Saturday [14 March], Kirill Ignatyev, member of the Coordination Council of Democratic Russia, told ITAR-TASS.

He said the new programme reflects the views of Democratic Russia Movement on political developments in Russia and measures that, from the viewpoint of this organisation, should be taken by the movement's leadership.

The programme, specifically, envisages the election of local government bodies in the spring in this year and the adoption of new electoral legislation.

There is an idea to convene a constitutional assembly, actually a founding assembly, to adopt a new constitution, unless it is adopted by a congress of Russian people's deputies soon.

Ignatyev said that the proposals of this public organisation had been implemented more than once. For instance, the treaty on the Commonwealth of Independent States is based on the plan for national-state structure proposed by the Coordination Council of Democratic Russia. The council's recommendations were also used by Russian president when working on programme of radical reform and forming the new composition of the republic's government. [sentence as received]

Communists To Submit Two Constitutional Drafts

OW1003112292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1019 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Evidently several drafts of the new Russian constitution will be submitted to the coming Congress of People's Deputies. Communists alone have two drafts. According to People's Deputy Yuri Slobodkin, one of them was composed by the Communists of Russia parliamentary group, the other by the Russian Communist Workers' Party. He spoke at a Tuesday [10 March] conference of deputies organized by the Communists of Russia, Agricultural Union and Fatherland parliamentary groups.

According to the coordinator of the Communists of Russia Ivan Rybkin, the conference is to discuss the

possible agenda of the Congress: the future constitution, the economic reform, the political situation in the Russian Federation and the CIS, the position of peoples of the extreme North. Besides, opinions will be exchanged on an appeal of a group of factions to the Constitutional Court to check the legality of presidential decrees banning CPSU activities, on the land reform and on the change of the name of the country from the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic to the Russian Federation.

Central Bank Grapples With Cash Shortages

PM1203094192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 92 Morning Edition pp 1-2

[Report by Ivan Zhagel: "1,000-Ruble Notes Will Soon Appear, But No End to the Cash Crisis Is Yet in Sight"]

[Text] In their forecast published in a January issue of IZVESTIYA senior officials of the Central Bank of Russia maintained that the cash crisis would be resolved as early as March. The said deadline has arrived, but the problem has not been taken off the agenda. Moreover, the shortage of bank notes and, consequently, the impossibility of paying wages and pensions are threatening to give rise to mass strikes in certain regions.

Here are the specific data: As of 1 March, the arrears with regard to payment of wages totaled 2 billion rubles [R] in Kemerovo Oblast alone, R4.3 billion in Tyumen, and, finally, R12 billion in Moscow Oblast. In addition, apart from Russia, since the beginning of the year absolutely all the Commonwealth countries have received less cash than they requested.

However, it would be unfair, and stupid too, to accuse specialists of the Central Bank of Russia of this. Processes are now taking place in the economy which prevent people not only from hurrying to print cash but also from making any forecast here that is at all accurate. I could cite many examples here.

It is known that since the start of the price reform working people in a number of sectors have literally taken the government by the throat and secured a multiple increase in their wages. For example, just in order to pay money to Norilsk metallurgical workers, more than R1 billion in cash was sent to that city in February. But not even this was enough. In March they are now demanding R2 billion. Of course, it is necessary to protect people during this complex transitional period, but still it would not be out of place to cite the following fact: In 1985 the entire volume of bank note emission in the Russian Federation totaled approximately R1 billion, whereas now such an amount of cash is required just to meet the needs of one combine.

Just in February, compared with January, the total amount of wages issued in Russia increased by R27 billion. This was accompanied by a parallel diminution in production volumes and a reduction in the mass of commodities sold through retail trade. This means that the money paid out to the population did not return to the bank, and an additional emission was needed to meet the need for cash.

It has to be admitted that the Russian Government has not yet managed to create economic mechanisms that would stimulate enterprises to invest money in expanding production and assimilating new commodities and technologies, rather than putting it into wages. Incidentally, despite all the talk of the market, today there is still no law on bankruptcy or a sufficiently profoundly elaborated mortgage law. It is no coincidence that, despite the disgusting work of a number of production processes, there is still not a single enterprise in Russia that has been ruined—which in itself could sober up many people and make them think about the future.

Even the government itself frequently adopts decisions that are in no way commensurate with the actual potential of the banking system. Thus, the Decree on Additional Measures for the Population's Social Protection was adopted recently. It would appear to be a matter of small amounts: R100 to some people, R200 to others. But to fulfill this decision as a whole it will require approximately R25 billion extra in cash.

"Unfortunately, the decree came as a surprise to us," A. Zinchenko, director of the Main Administration for the Regulation of Money Circulation of the Central Bank of Russia, said. "Nobody checked it with us in advance. Of course, we can primarily channel the existing cash toward payment of this compensation, but then there could be still longer delays over paying wages—which in itself is very dangerous."

I would like to emphasize once again that no one is campaigning to deprive broad circles of the population of social protection. But any decision must be weighed, considered in depth, and reckoned up, for otherwise it could have the directly opposite effect.

For example, the government recently unfroze the 40 percent increase that was added to personal deposits after Pavlov's price hike a year ago. You would think that this shows direct concern for the population, but employees of the Russian Savings Bank have calculated that they will require at least a further R10 billion in cash to pay the 40 percent increase in the second quarter. But where can it be found? Will not this whole campaign be turned into a fiction as a result?

Thus, having been taught by bitter experience of implementing the reform in practice, employees of the Central Bank of Russia no longer want to make any forecasts with regard to deadlines for normalizing the cash situation. They speak only of the positive influence of the bringing into use of checks, which has begun, and of the fact that more and more money will be transferred directly into savings books. Of course, great hopes are pinned on the R1,000 bank notes, whose printing, according to A. Zinchenko, is already in full swing at the Moscow factory of the Main Administration for Production of State Bank Notes, Coins, and Medals, and the

first of them will be put into circulation 12 March. But he was also careful not to make any forecasts to reassure us.

Russian Share of USSR Internal Debt Viewed

PM0903164192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Article by Irina Demchenko: "The Amount of Money Our State Owes Us"]

[Excerpts] The internal state debt of the former USSR stands at almost 1 trillion rubles [R]. The state—directly or indirectly—took these resources from the population. It is unclear as yet whether they will ever be returned.

The internal state debt, like the foreign debt, is not something exclusive to a modern economy. It actually represents the sum of the outstanding state budget deficits built up during the country's existence. There are states like the United States, for example, where the internal debt is considerably in excess of our own in both absolute and relative terms, which does not prevent its economy being more prosperous than ours. True, the latter factor does not insulate Americans from worries about whether the state will be able to pay its debt. According to specialists, when assessing the state debt, it is not the size of the debt that is important, but how the resources borrowed are used. [passage omitted]

The Proportion of the Debt Which Russia Is Ready To Accept

The problem of dividing up the internal debt, like that of the foreign debt, hinges on two issues: namely, succession and information. To a large extent we owe the recently published data on the structure of our foreign debt and the methodologies for sharing liability to the persistent interest shown by foreign creditors. Unfortunately, the world financial institutions have not shown a similar interest in our state's internal debt.

The question of succession is not completely clear either. As is well known, the Russian leadership has repeatedly stated its claims to legal succession in the financial sphere.

In actual fact control over the issuing of money and credit was exercised until the end of this February by the USSR State Bank. Thanks to this and the fact that the USSR State Bank officially ceased activity on 1 March, we are able for the first time to publish data traditionally kept secret in our country on the issuing of money (bank notes). In January a sum of R19.9 billion was issued from the State Bank vaults to the banks. R14 billion was put into cash circulation by the banks—this is the sum by which the amount of rubles in circulation actually increased. On analyzing these figures, it is essential to bear in mind that Ukraine introduced coupons into circulation on 10 January, that sovereign state thereby withdrawing around R8 billion from circulation. In calculating the level of real inflation it would be correct to add them to the 14 billion. The sum obtained—around 22 billion—corresponds to the January level of the issue of bank notes on the territory of the former USSR. In February banks put R33.5 billion into cash circulation across their counters. The deputy chairman of the former USSR State Bank declined to divulge information about the number of coupons, since Ukraine's government has already declared the information restricted.

A. Voylukov [deputy chairman of the former USSR State Bank] expressed in passing the view that the data on the issuing of bank notes do not as yet provide grounds for deducing any trends, because in January it was always (rather than for the first time since 1985 or 1986, as members of the Russian government claim) less than in December and February. This is down to the payment of end-of-year bonuses, traditional fluctuations in commodity turnover, and the untraditional increase in wages in December, and cannot serve as a reflection of the new economic situation obtaining since the start of Russian reform.

At their conferences the leaders of the financial organs of the CIS states have, as far as I am aware, repeatedly approached the problems of establishing joint control over issuing money, creating a banking union, and dividing up the internal state debt, but have failed to date to find mutually acceptable approaches to these undoubtedly difficult issues. Recently Russia announced its intention to resolve the problem of internal debt unilaterally.

According to B. Zlatkis, chief of the Russian Federation Finance Ministry Administration of Finance and Securities, the Russian Government regards as absolutely indisputable its responsibility for that part of the USSR internal debt placed with the population in the form of state bonds. Russia will redeem all state securities of the former USSR, treasury bonds, special settlement checks (to acquire automobiles) and special interest-free loans (for the purchase of consumer goods). Clearly not everyone will be satified of course by the procedure whereby this will be carried out, but this decision does at any rate distinguish itself from that adopted by the government of Estonia, which refuses in principle to be responsible for the former USSR's commitments.

Moreover, Russia has taken responsibility for the direct debt which the Union and Russian Governments have jointly built up with the Russian Federation Bank for Labor Savings and Credit to the Population [Sberbank] since its separation from the Union bank in 1991—R285 billion. Unfortunately, the state of the documentation makes it impossible to clearly establish which part of the sum was borrowed by the Silayev government and which by the Pavlov government. But in any event a certain proportion of the Union state debt makes up this sum. Admittedly, it might not be very significant, since, for example, the republic government without the least assistance from the Union government ran up a R125-billion debt to its own Russian Central Bank in two

years, 80 billion of which is the debt of loss-making enterprises, basically kolkozes and sovkhozes, written off by the Second Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies.

According to Zlatkis, the Russian Government has agreed to service a total of R435 billion of the internal debt, and this is the sum in question in the Russian Government Memorandum sent to the World Bank and IMF. However, this sum represents only a proportion—no more than half—of the all-union internal debt down to Russia after the elimination of the USSR.

Recently various methods for dividing up the internal debt among the states of the former USSR or jointly redeeming them have been proposed (notably in IZVESTIYA No. 19, 1992)—for example, through funds earned from privatizing state property—however, as far as I am aware, not one of them has been examined at the level of the finance ministers, let alone the leadership, of the states. However, if this problem is left to follow up the rear, there is no possibility at all of solving the problem of financial stabilization—with all the consequences thereby ensuing.

Titkin Calls Presidential Decree 'Gross Error'

PM1203100792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Mar 92 First Edition p 2

["Chronicle" report: "Russian Minister of Industry Declares War on the 'New' Concerns"]

[Text] We anticipate a sharp fall in production in the first three quarters of 1992. If the situation develops favorably, only in the fourth quarter is an increase in production output possible. This was stated yesterday at a news conference by Russian Federation Minister of Industry Aleksandr Titkin.

From among the main problems facing Russia's industry the minister highlighted material-technical supply, a lack of investment, and a shortage of budget resources for purchasing military hardware and arms. A. Titkin declared that the military budget for the first quarter does not provide for arms purchases.

A. Titkin described the October presidential decree which "completely bans the preservation of economic links" as a gross error. Although many people call the preservation of economic links an antimarket phenomenon, it nevertheless constitutes an extremely important condition during the transition to the market. Above all for enterprises producing high-tech goods which cannot find markets and set up new links in a brief space of time.

Given the slump in industrial production, we can expect not simply a reduction in jobs but actual unemployment. In the new economic conditions, enterprises can painlessly cut their work force by around 20 percent without harming production, the minister continued.

On the subject of the forthcoming price increases for energy sources, A. Titkin stressed that this is a heavy blow for industry but that it cannot be avoided. "Unless prices correspond to world levels, oil will constantly seep across the border by fair means or foul. This is a necessary step," he said.

As for the problem of creating new commercial structures, the minister declared that in fact many concerns and corporations are former Union ministries and main administrations which are now becoming serious obstacles to reform. "During the liquidation of former Union ministries their leaders, realizing that the ministries and main administrations would not survive into the future, adopted beautiful market titles, reaped a harvest of resources from the stabilization funds, laundered money, and became monopolists," A. Titkin continued. By way of an example, he named the "Rosalyuminiy" concern. We will fight against these pseudomarket structures, the minister stressed.

Yet another example was "Avtoselkhozmashkholding." Expert economists had analyzed this company's structure and come to the conclusion that it is a supermonopolist. "We fished out the presidential decree on setting up the 'Rossiyskiye Lesopromyshlenniki' joint stock company, which was the legal successor to the corporation of timber merchants. If this document is pushed through, then that company—with 15 million rubles in incorporation capital—will be the master of the entire Russian timber industry. It is remarkable that the signature of a member of the Committee on Antimonopoly Questions appears at the bottom of these documents," A. Titkin said.

It was indicated that practically all of these structures were created by commercial banks, which received the former ministries' resources from the stabilization fund. This is how money was laundered in the banks under these corporations: But these banks have not invested their money in developing enterprises; rather they are releasing it for trade.

For the purpose of stimulating the resources accumulated in commercial structures, on the president's return a decree will be adopted on incentives for commercial structures which invest their resources in industry. According to A. Titkin, this could revive the Russian economy to some degree.

Chubays Comments on Results of Privatization

OW1103151192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Anatoliy Chubays, head of the Russian Federation's State Committee on Property Management, told an economic seminar in Moscow on Wednesday [11 March] that last year's privatization brought 2 billion rubles into the national budget. This year's revenues are expected to run into 90 billion. He noted that last year's

documents regulating the process of privatization were aimed at transferring only 20% of state-owned property into private hands. Now it is clear that the figure will be "considerably larger," Chubays said.

The Property Management Committee, according to its head, intends to make tangible progress in privatization in March and April already. Once this process has become irreversible, popular fears about the possible nationalization of private property in the future will disperse, Chubays observed.

On the prospect of attracting foreign capital he said that a unified system of registration for those foreign investors who would like to buy enterprises on Russian territory was yet to be worked out. The usual practice, however, had been that foreign entrepreneurs wishing to invest $2 million and more into privatization were required to ask permission from the Russian Government.

According to Chubays, the State Property Management Committee, with assistance from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and the State Committee of Foreign Investments, is drafting a resolution introducing a special "privatization-related" exchange rate for the ruble—tentatively, 10 rubles for 1 US dollar. "It looks as if a decision to that effect will be taken after all," Chubays said.

Dropping Demand Downs Agricultural Production

OW1003032992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1809 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Interfax Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The current decline in agricultural production in Russia is caused by two important factors: decreased solvent demand for food products, and forced reorganization of collective and state-run farms. The real threat is that should the rate of declining production exceed 25%, the situation may become irreversible.

THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR MAY LOSE ITS GROWTH BASE. In January 1992 producers first encountered an influence never before felt in the Soviet economy—overproduction. This overproduction has been artificially generated under conditions of steep price increases for food products (minimum of 300-400%) and extreme monopolism in both the food processing industry and in wholesale trade.

As a result, in January producers were forced to decrease sales of meat and milk by one third of last year's levels, and their financial situation worsened significantly. Collective and state-run farms are refusing to purchase plowing equipment, seeds, and fertilizers.

The currently evolving situation may make decreased production in the animal husbandry industry irreversible: production infrastructure is being destroyed by increasing cutbacks in the size of milk herds, which will take no less than 3 to 5 years to replace.

In addition, a presidential order gives collective and state-owned farms one year to reorganize. Large farms have thereby become, in the eyes of many, temporary agricultural units doomed to an early grave. No matter how quickly the farmers' movement develops, it will not be able to undertake the task of providing the country with all of its food needs in the next two to three years.

AGRICULTURE IS ON THE VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY. As the situation continues to unfold, the government must strengthen its financial support of agricultural production, particularly in the milk industry. In the next few weeks, prior to the beginning of sowing season, the government must take measures to avert a steep decline in the number of fields devoted to labor-intensive crops.

Nevertheless, traditional forms of support have proven ineffective. The government is introducing a mortgage system for the purchase of agricultural production which is widely used in western countries. The government will guarantee processing and storage of all production at market prices and provide the mortgagers with cash advances and various other incentives. This system enables farmers to receive a guarantee that all of their production will be purchased at acceptable prices, while permitting the government to create reserves which can be used for intervention to stabilize the food market.

If the government does not provide the agricultural sector with effective support, then no less than one third of all farms will declare bankruptcy by the end of this year (in 1991 one out of every ten farms were unprofitable). Russia's farms outside of the black-earth region (excluding the Moscow and St. Petersburg districts) face particularly difficult conditions. The agricultural industry will be incapable of regeneration, and therefore its production base will continue to be destroyed at a quickening pace.

New Association Protects Rights of Press

LD1103142692 Moscow TASS in English 1358 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sean Wood]

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—"Active participation of the press in the development of a market economy in Russia" and the defence of journalists' and publishers' rights and interests are the main goals of the new All-Russian Association of Business Press (VADP), its presidential committee announced in a press statement released Wednesday [11 March]. The association was approved just days ago by the executive committee of the Russian Union of Journalists, one of its principal founders.

While the association's President Valeriy Kharakhinov believes the press has an active role to play in the

development of Russia's market economy, he points out the future of many newspapers and magazines is not secure during the painful transition. In fact, many have closed or are on the verge of closing due to lack of government subsidies.

"The association was thus founded partly to secure the economic safeguarding and the democratic development of the press in light of these new conditions," Kharakhinov added.

General director of one of VADP's founding members—the American-Russian joint venture publication "Passport to the New World" (formerly "Passport to the USSR")—and VADP Vice President, Yuriy Vasiliyev, sees wide possibilities for cooperation between the press and the domestic and foreign business communities.

"We have an interest in accurate international communication", Vasiliyev said. "Our publication, published in English, reaches out to the foreign business community, who are important for the development of Russia's new economy. VADP intends to extend its activities to conferences as a result", he added.

The association's first step in realising its goals will be the publication of a new newspaper called RUSSIAN PRESS, an opinion platform for all journalists across the territory of the former Soviet Union, regardless of their political or religious affiliation. The first issue will be published before the end of March.

Among other founders of the association are Ekoizdat Joint Stock Company and the Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions. The Russian Paper Commodities Exchange and several foreign concerns are expected to pledge support in coming weeks, according to Kharakhinov. Members thus far include the Press Trade Union, the International Youth Press Association and the Russian Association of Caricature Artists.

IZVESTIYA Becomes Independent Newspaper

LD1103133192 Moscow TASS in English 1312 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Tamara Zamyatina and Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—The Moscow-based newspaper IZVESTIYA has at last become a really independent publication and ceased to be a newspaper patronised by the authorities, Igor Golembiovsky, IZVESTIYA editor-in-chief, told ITAR-TASS on the eve of the 75th anniversary of the newspaper.

Despite all attempts to exert pressure on it from above, IZVESTIYA has managed to preserve the image of a liberal publication since the times of one of its first editors-in-chief, Nikolay Bukharin. IZVESTIYA journalists continue to hold dear the traditions of the Russian democratic press, Golembiovsky stressed.

He has set his colleagues the task of combining traditions and the requirements of the current situation. IZVESTIYA not only advocated the introduction of market relations, but was also quick to begin commercial activities in new tough conditions of free prices. The IZVESTIYA-BURDA information service permitted to earn on advertising 200 million rubles and one million dollars last year, Golembiovsky said.

TV, Radio Officials on Past, Future Goals

LD1003055192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2023 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Fifth Wheel" program—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Excerpts] Leaders of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company today met with representatives of the mass media. Taking part in the news conference were company Chairman Oleg Poptsov, General Director Anatoliy Lysenko, and managers of the main directorates of Russia's Radio and Television.

[Poptsov] "I imagine that the reply to the question about the Russian Television and Radio Company yesterday, today, and tomorrow is quite simple. Russian radio has been operating for a little more than a year and television for a little over six months. This determines everything. If we feel that in some sense, the idea of radio—not to mention the colossal defects we see—and we are harsh in assessing these defects—that this idea exists. [sentence as heard] As regards everything that lies ahead for television, I would say that in the past there was a little, at present there is a little more, and the rest is in the future. Everything else is in the future.

"The channel we share today does not satisfy us. It would be silly for it to satisfy us. The main work lies ahead.

"Immediately after August an amazing amount of airtime tumbled from the heavens. We had planned before the end of the year on six hours, depending on the political state of affairs. We were confronted with the problem of coming to terms with 16. Naturally the channel was somewhat like a train onto which everything possible is being loaded so that later no one would be able to accuse the train of running empty.

"This could not but have an effect. We see this. If today someone says that our main task at this stage is that this chaotic overfilling has passed, even though it was a natural reaction, then one of the main tasks now is to mercilessly thin out the channel, so to speak. We need to clear out all the rubbish, removing everything that is bankrupt, that failed to come off properly, or that has stood for too long.

"It has to be said that our colleagues on the First Channel have generally done this work already. We are now engaged in this work. It is extraordinarily important because the main task facing Russian Television and

Russian Radio is to create good quality creative competition between Ostankino radio and Ostankino television.

"We are aware that our starting speeds are different, our starting opportunities are different, and that technical provisions are strikingly different, but that is okay. I think that we will get through these circles of hell of ours, so to speak, and will ultimately reach the light at the end of the tunnel. We believe this without a doubt.

"It is very important to understand this now because we speak a lot about the form and format of Russian television. I would say that it has to be creative and well-grounded. There will be political saturation. We cannot get away from this since politics define the tone of our life minute by minute. We have said many times that at certain stages politics replace culture, politics replace economics, and politics replace education, meaning that there is sometimes an impermissible ideologization of life that reduces professionalism to naught.

"For a long time we refused to have anything to do with this, but now I am very concerned—because it is very dangerous—that the democratic running of society should not be on the second circle and should not start to repeat the same thing. For us, this aspect is very important. Politics should occupy its place. If this is television, there should be political information, but there should also be political and economic theater. All this is so because television is theater to a large extent. There is no need to be afraid of this. The time has passed when we spoke with rapture, selflessly, about live airtime as our goal and quantity turning into quality. We are obliged today to recognize that the abundance of live airtime and talking heads has practically destroyed the concept of television production and of a television artist. As a result of this the viewer has lost out, creativity has lost out, and the art of television has lost out. This is true for radio to a lesser extent.

"A fourth channel is appearing. We are working on the fourth channel. Our idea is that this channel should be the channel of the Russian universities. In our desire to draw up a deficit-free budget—and by this I mean the state budget—and in talking about economic reforms, we must not overlook culture as a value in itself. We should not overlook education as a value in itself, nor science or our spirituality.

"Economics cannot develop in isolation because if we decide and lock ourselves into an exclusively economic program we may find ourselves in a position where there will be no one left to do the reforming. This will happen if the nation stops giving birth or if the nation stops paving the way for culture.

"Diminishing intellect is the main, eternal obstacle to any spirit of reform. It is natural that the Russian company's stronghold is the spirit of reform in which the state is engaged, in which the government is engaged, and in which the Supreme Soviet is engaged. One must always be aware that the field of information must surround the reforms, because outstripping the reforms when the reforms exist only in the sphere of information but have no analogy in practice, or lagging behind the reforms, are two completely pernicious phenomena. Both give rise to distrust with regard to reforms in society.

"We will make our best efforts without losing a sense of creative, social, and purely human optimism. I imagine that the future will show that we are ready for competition and we intend to play our role in it."

The media representatives adamantly sought to clarify this question: Is the merger of Russian TV and the Ostankino Company—which frightens many people—expected?

[A. Lysenko] "I feel that the preservation of a single information space, or, if you like, a single cultural space in the CIS, is unbelievably important. It seems to be the last thing which it is still possible to hold together. So I support the position of the leaders of Ostankino.

"Regarding a merger: This would be senseless because it would halt the demonopolization process in TV and radio and would lead to the rebirth of the old monster of Gostelradio. Then it will be necessary to unite everything, including the local committees. I can understand the concerns of our colleagues from Ostankino, their quite justified concerns, that having received financing from the Union republics the Union republics will demand something in return.

"We live in an age in which it would be unusual for someone to give money and ask nothing in return, under conditions, taking into account that this is state money, or interstate money. Yes, one has to reconcile oneself to this, one has to live with this, and one has to find a way to survive."

[Poptsov] "The shape and idea of the company, the economic idea of the company, has to be worked through, the concept of shareholding has to appear—a concept which, incidentally, is built into the president's decree on the Ostankino company. I imagine that ultimately this will not pass by the All-Russian Television and Radio Company either. We are entering into the market sphere. The belief that we can somehow, as it were, hover over this is impossible; there should be no illusions here.

"We would like the government to understand this as we do: In speaking of reforms, there is a supporting echelon which provides the field of reforms; this field of reforms is the press. The expectation that it should work solely according to market laws, as they say, putting one ruble in and getting four back and so on—no. The carrying out of reforms will be possible or impossible by virtue of it being a field through which our newspapers work and for the sake of which radio and TV exist. By virtue of this, it will be possible to achieve that final capital from the

reforms of enterprises, farmers, associations, shareholding companies, and so on and so on."

Journalists were interested in whether Russian Radio and Television receives political instructions from the Russian Government. In replying, the leaders of the company expounded their views—untraditional for our society—on the relationship between the authorities and the mass media.

[A. Yu. Nekhoroshev] "I think that you all listen to Radio Rossii's news service, and have probably noticed that at times we are even too critical regarding what our government would like to hear. Gennadiy Eduardovich Burbulis has found an opportunity to meet with us. With great interest he learned about our position on the problems of the Russian reforms. What I liked most of all is that he respected our position." [passage omitted]

[Poptsov] "Our contacts with the government are constant. I would be dishonest if I said that I do not sense any active attention from the government or even a certain pressure, but this is natural. One should not be surprised. The legislative, executive, or any other authority has never been indifferent to the mass media. Let's say that at present we are experiencing a fair amount of pressure from the parties, which have not yet become authority. Still, there is already pressure, which is natural. People have become accustomed to this. Authority has grown accustomed to regarding itself as authority forever. The moment authorities read a newspaper such as IZVESTIYA, they cease to be just a reader. The moment authorities watch "Vesti", strangely, they cease to be just a viewer. When authorities listen to Radio Rossii, they cease to be just a listener. I think that our task as professionals, as citizens of this society, includes helping authorities to master the roles of viewer, listener, and reader." [passage omitted]

[Poptsov] "One does not have to stoop to the level of the viewer; one has to force the viewer to rush after you and to get up onto tiptoe to be capable of seeing further. In every regard there has to be maximum respect for the viewer. I take criticism 400 percent, because it serves as the grounds for absolutely daily discussion among us."

From now on such meetings with the media will be regular.

Possible Merger Called 'Senseless'

OW1003023292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1906 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chairman of the Russian Company for Television and Radio Broadcasting Oleg Poptsov has said at a news conference that the company's leadership supports the idea of the chairman of another Russian Television and Broadcasting Company "Ostankino", Yegor Yakovlev. The latter proposed establishing one information space for the CIS and said that the "Ostankino" company should be a common one.

He has called plans for merging the two Russian companies senseless. He believes that the main objective of the Russian Company for Television and Broadcasting is competition with the "Ostankino" company.

Yakovlev on Military Reform, CIS Relations

AU1103132892 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 6 Mar 92 pp 1, 13

[Interview with Yegor Yakovlev, director of Ostankino Radio and Television Company, by Bohuslav Borovicka in Prague; date not given: "We Have Not Struck Oil, Yet"]

[Text] Yegor Yakovlev, former MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI chief editor and current director of the Ostankino Radio and Television Company was on the scene, as well as behind the scenes, of the former Soviet—and now Russian—leadership. He is a member of Yeltsin's Political Advisory Council. During his recent visit to Prague, he granted us an interview.

[Borovicka] President Yeltsin was one of the initiators of the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States, despite the fact that shortly before the meeting in Brest, he was in favor of the Soviet Union. What led him to change his opinion?

[Yakovlev] Yeltsin was convinced that any sort of union would not be conceivable without the Ukraine. They had an argument about this with Gorbachev, who thought—and, as far as I know, he still thinks—that if there were no attempted putsch, the Union treaty would have been signed and the Soviet Union would have been preserved in some form. According to him, this could have been achieved if the meeting in Brest were not held. I believe he is mistaken. Even if the treaty were signed, it would have remained on paper only. To live in isolation from civilization for 70 years means to age. And aging results in death. It was a natural death.

[Borovicka] Russia has become independent. Is it a victory, or a loss?

[Yakovlev] We gave up our external statehood in order to remain in a union with the Ukraine. If I said now that we have become closer to one another, there would hardly be anyone who would believe me. We have acquired a national statehood that is closer to peoples' hearts than the previous one, the common statehood. We have new anthems, banners, and state emblems. However, we have lost the stability of a huge country. Economic relations have been disturbed in a catastrophic manner. Conflicts have erupted in almost every republic—Georgia, Moldova, and Karabakh. Russia was sort of a stabilizing factor in the past. Today, people are drowning in their own blood in these republics.

About your question: What we have gained or lost cannot be compared to each other. It is as if we were discussing what is better—the winter or the summer. Simply, it is a process that could not have been prevented.

[Borovicka] How do you view the prospects of the further existence of the CIS?

[Yakovlev] It is easier to evaluate the negative aspects of the CIS only. In addition to what I have said, there is the problem in the Crimea, the dispute about the Black Sea Fleet, the disintegration of the unified monetary system, and many other things. The majority of the republics agreed with having joint armed forces and with the preservation of joint strategic forces. Not so long ago, a treaty between Russia and the Ukraine was signed. At the recent meeting of the Political Council, Yeltsin said that the republics are starting to realize the importance of joint actions with Russia. The problem is that the disintegration process did not stop after the establishment of the CIS. It is continuing in a number of the republics, including Russia. In our country we say: One has to drill until he strikes oil. We have not struck oil, yet.

[Borovicka] What is the driving force on the Russian political scene?

[Yakovlev] This is a question that apparently all our politicians are asking. In 1985, reforms were introduced by pressure from above. It lasted until 1988, when pressure from below prevailed. Gorbachev and his group began lagging behind, which resulted in the disintegration of the Soviet Union last year in December. Now, once again, reforms are being directed from above, since there is no driving force from below.

That is, democrats came to power at a moment when they had exhausted their entire political program. The essence of this program was to shatter the dictatorship of the CPSU and of the militaristic and imperialistic state. This has been achieved. What will come next? We lack political goals, weltanschauung values, and an element that would unite the people. According to sociological polls in Russia last year, 40 percent of the people in Russia do not have their own opinions, convictions, or political goals. They are prepared to take the first thing that someone offers them. If the democratic forces fail to do so, then their opponents will come up with their own offers.

[Borovicka] Are you not afraid that people could accept the communist ideology, for instance, as their weltanschauung?

[Yakovlev] Communism, as an economic system, and as a general and untouchable belief, has ceased to exist. Yet, it survives in the form of nostalgic memoirs about the lifestyle in which everyone was able to rely on having certain securities—about a system in which decisions were made by others, and which was, in a sense, more comfortable.

[Borovicka] From the behavior and actions of some politicians, including Yeltsin, I have gained the impression that it is not only nostalgia that survives.

[Yakovlev] It is easier to renounce the communist ideology than to get rid of bolshevik methods. These methods are obvious, for example, in attempts to explain the economic development as a straightforward process. Economic development is never straightforward, yet the temptation to get from one place to the other in the shortest possible time is so great. We can all succumb to schemes that govern our intellect and common sense.

[Borovicka] You said that there is no driving force for reforms from below, and reforms are again being implemented from above. What should be done about it?

[Yakovlev] The epoch of the so-called "democracy rally" has ended, I am afraid, and the period of authoritarian national development has come. It can be seen in the conflicts between the executive and legislative powers. Moscow Mayor Popov demanded several times that the activity of the city soviet be stopped, because it hampers the work of executive bodies. Similar demands were raised with respect to other representative bodies.

Just remember how the deputies were selected. Whoever was against the CPSU was elected. At that time, we were concerned with the destruction of the old system. Today, we must build, and the existing organs are not capable of building. We will have elections, we will see.

[Borovicka] What role can the Army play in all that? Former Foreign Minister Shevarnadze warned recently that a new putsch could be much worse than that of last year.

[Yakovlev] There are many factors that influence the Army. Hard living and material conditions, political extremists, such as Alksnis, and, the greatest blow, the establishment of the CIS. A soldier must know whom is he serving. He does not know it today. The military doctrine has changed. The United States is our ally for the time being but, do you think that all the rockets are aimed at Saddam Husayn? That would be ridiculous.

We are lulling ourselves with the fact that the Russian Army does not have a history of military putsches. Yet, if a putsch took place today, then it would not be a soap opera, as it was last year. Not soldiers, but officers would get into the tanks. What is even worse—last year's putsch was suppressed by the last wave of the democratic movement, which has become exhausted by it.

[Borovicka] Could you tell us something about Mikhail Gorbachev? Sensation-seeking reports have appeared about his property, a villa bought in Finland, the CPSU's money stashed away....

[Yakovlev] I was almost constantly together with Gorbachev during his last days in office. First, because we were making a film about him with an American television company, and also because the majority of those who had been around him simply ran away. As far as the

party's money is concerned, it is silly to make a fuss about it and reveal that the CPSU financed communist parties abroad. We knew it from the very beginning. However, to stash the money away in foreign banks and fictitious enterprises is another matter. Those are mafia-style manners. Gorbachev himself told me that he did not know anything about it. What the truth is, I do not know.

The villa in Finland is absolute nonsense. And the rest? Gorbachev has a two-bedroom apartment in Moscow that he got for himself when he was president. Near Moscow, he has a presidential "dacha". It is the same dacha that he had before he became the general secretary. He has no car of his own, he uses an official one. As for money—royalties for his recent book—he usually contributes to the fund that bears his name. Of course, he does not have financial problems. He receives lots of offers to lecture or write something—for large sums of money.

As far as I know, he is only afraid that the court action against the putschists could become a political trial. The system that Gorbachev presided over would have to sit in the dock. As a lawyer he realizes the consequences, consequences that could hit him, too. The only thing that he demanded from Yeltsin when he resigned was immunity, and he did not obtain it. According to what Yeltsin said, what Gorbachev got aroused negative reactions from many people in the leadership. Wanting to push through a law that would guarantee his immunity was useless anyway.

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Seeks Popov Dismissal Over Rally

MK1203081792 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Mar 92 p 1

[Report by Sergey Parkhomenko: "Go Ahead and Hold a Rally If You Like"]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium met Wednesday [11 March] evening and held an emergency discussion of the situation connected with the intention of a group of people's deputies of the former USSR to convene an extraordinary Union congress 17 March.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov criticized the leaders of Moscow City Hall in extremely harsh terms. "The Moscow executive authorities are clearly unable to cope with their duties," he declared, ordering a number of parliamentary committees to prepare a resolution on removing the capital's mayor from his post. However, Supreme Soviet Presidium member Sergey Krasavchenko reminded the chairman that the parliament does not have the powers to make such a decision.

The draft resolution on the threat of disturbances 17 March discussed by the session describes the Union deputies' activity as an "attempt on Russia's state sovereignty."

Russian Federation General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov told the session about his subordinates' discussions in recent days with potential participants in the Congress. Only 12 of them, according to the prosecutor, stated their firm intention to go to Moscow. However, according to Stepankov's information, there are already around 150 former Union parliamentarians in Moscow.

Moscow militia leader Arkadiy Murashev looked calmer than the other participants in the session. "We are not going to do anything," he reported, "except not let them into the Kremlin. Anyhow, in my view, they have no intention of going there. According to my forecasts, if the weather is good, about 40,000 people will assemble for a rally. That is not a huge number for Manezh Square—there will not even be any need to cut off the traffic."

Further on Former USSR Congress Decision

LD1103210392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has a loud heading today: The Sixth Congress of USSR People's Deputies—The Latest Coup or a Piece of Buffoonery?. Authorities Are Confused, They Are Ready To Use Force, But Are Afraid of Casualties"—this is the end of the quote.

There is probably some exaggeration. Nevertheless, a difficult decision was to be adopted today as in many respects the development of future events greatly depend on it.

[Correspondent V. Stepanyuk] Right after this evening's session of the parliament, the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet had a meeting to consider issues relating to the intention of USSR people's deputies to revive the structures of the former Soviet Union.

The Supreme Soviet Presidium recognized—I am quoting—that the resumption of activities by any body of the former USSR on the territory of Russia is an attempt on the state sovereignty of the Russian Federation and is incompatible with the status of an independent state.

The Procurator General of the Russian Federation was instructed to demand of the people's deputies of the former USSR who are organizing a meeting on 17 March, that the Federation law should be strictly observed and that illegal activities on reviving the structures of the former USSR should be stopped.

The Presidium instructed the Russian Government, the Moscow city soviet and mayor to take measures to prevent holding the so-called congress of USSR people's deputies both in the capital and on the territory of the

Russian Federation. [Video shows a sitting of the Presidium chaired by R.Khasbulatov]

[Announcer] RIA reports that Aleksandr Krayko, member of the organizational committee for preparing the planned congress, reported at a news conference today that the congress will open at 1000 on the morning of 17 March. He refused to give a more precise address for the congress.

Reports on Nagorno-Karabakh Situation Rebutted

LD1103145992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Report by correspondent V.Tsygankov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today, the Russian parliament examined amendments to the draft decision on the state of affairs in the agro-industrial sector, adopted the law on private detective and personal security activity, and heard information from Deputy Andronov who has been in Nagorno-Karabakh and who reported on the details of the withdrawal of the 366th Motorized Rifle Regiment.

[Begin Andronov recording] Comrades, there were no losses, with the exception of two soldiers who died under particular circumstances. Those were all the losses. It was reported in the papers, IZVESTIYA for example, that there were many injured. Nothing of the sort. No one was injured. There are all kinds of other panicky reports here. Nothing of the sort happened. I have to say that given the extreme situation—I am not a supporter of our top military—but here I would like to note the very well-considered, sensible, and I would say heroic behavior of General Grekov and Commander in Chief Shaposhnikov and, of course, the vice president, and Artur Mkrtchyan, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Nagorno-Karabakh. [end recording]

Concerns Voiced About Attacks on Servicemen

LD1203080992 Moscow TASS in English 0722 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 12 ITAR-TASS—Attacks on military units with the purpose of seizing weapons and military equipment, which cause casualties among servicemen, are a matter of serious concern for the leaders of the Russian Federation parliament and legislators, says a statement by the press centre of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

These attacks have become more frequent lately in some of the Commonwealth member states, specifically in Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The bandit-like attack on the garrison in the Armenian town of Artik, which left some servicemen killed or wounded and ten officers taken hostage, generated particular concern and indignation. The statement points out that this action created a dangerous precedent for escalating such crimes in other regions and involving the army in interethnic and interstate conflicts.

The Russian deputies fully support the public's demands that the Armenian Supreme Soviet take immediate measures to free the hostages, investigate thoroughly this incident and bring the culprits to account, the statement says.

Parliament 'Growing Weaker' Before Congress

MK1103134592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Mar 92 p 2

[Interview with Sergey Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, by Aleksey Zuychenko; place and date not given: "Number of 'Floating' Deputies Getting Bigger. First Deputy Chairman of the Russian Parliament Sergey Filatov on the Pre-Congress Situation in the Supreme Soviet"]

[Text] [Zuychenko] Sergey Aleksandrovich, the situation in parliament has begun to change quite intensively of late, in my view. And not for the better. So far this is not greatly affecting the decisions that are being made, but it can be seen quite clearly from the correlation of forces during the votes and from the general mood....

[Filatov] That is true. And one of the things that is causing most severe concern is the "flushing" of the most active democratic forces out of the corps of deputies. Of course, they are not being "flushed" into oblivion—they are being transferred to executive power structures. I do not mean to imply that this is very bad or should not happen, but parliament is growing weaker before our very eyes. After all, there are two main stages in the Supreme Soviet's work—the elaboration of documents and their adoption. The vote ultimately decides everything....

I have real fears that the situation in parliament will also deteriorate sharply as the situation in the country deteriorates. We may get totally conservative and even reactionary decisions, which even now are emerging from time to time.

If you remember, at both the second and third Congresses there were situations where the opposing sides clashed head-on, and the democrats won with a majority of literally just a few votes. Those few votes may no longer be there. All of this worries me greatly.

[Zuychenko] Don't you think that, in addition to these purely quantitative changes in the correlation of votes, qualitative changes are also under way in parliament and striking metamorphoses have occurred in the political views of quite a large number of deputies?

[Filatov] That is also true. What I was saying is not the only reason for the changes in the Supreme Soviet, of course. One of the most important reasons is the following. Before the last Congress we introduced the rule "one deputy, one faction." Before that deputies could

simultaneously be members of three or four. At one time "Democratic Russia" was the most powerful group. But after the introduction of this rule the democrats "dispersed" among various factions and "Democratic Russia" was transformed into a bloc of factions. Even previously the democrats had not been particularly disciplined, let alone now. So the creation of new groups and factions—a seemingly natural process—did not benefit us and promoted disintegration, and on some points we are moving further and further away from each other. Especially as everything is being done not at meetings of the bloc or even of groups, but at meetings between leaders. And the main role is played here by purely personal qualities and their relationships. In short, the democrats are now rather weak in organizational terms.

It has to be said that this was only to be expected, the emergence of more and more new disagreements among democrats was inevitable after the defeat of communism. That is very clear now....

To mention specific groups separately...I think "Smena" was the first to leave "Democratic Russia." For quite a long time it has had totally autonomous positions, which, to be honest, I do not altogether understand. Outwardly they are principled and logical enough. But in my view, it is a destructive force. I have the feeling that they are motivated by their own political aims and, most of all, by ambitions.

The "Radical Democrats" are beginning to take on an increasingly pronounced separate identity. They are now proclaiming as their main slogan the "unconditional primacy of legality over expedience," as though anyone were opposed to that. Ultimately the argument is not about that. It is just that our legislation is full of holes, and the real question is what to fill these holes with. I think that the way they try to do this does not always have anything to do with the law.

Although, to be honest, to a great extent it is a question of the personality of the chairman of this faction, around which there has always been argument. The argument is now beginning to become sharper....

[Zuychenko] It looks as though ahead of the Congress any question of secondary or even tertiary importance is suddenly becoming most important....

[Filatov] Of course. Each group will bring to the Congress its own task, sometimes a very local task, and will try to suggest to everyone that this is precisely the most important thing. Many people will try to resolve at the Congress what they have been unable to resolve in the Supreme Soviet. We must expect a very controversial Congress. There is practically no issue on which general consensus could be expected.

Take the question of the CIS, for instance. Have you seen what has been going on recently in parliament in this connection?

[Zuychenko] They have virtually restored the USSR.

[Filatov] Turbulent debates about the Crimea and the Armed Forces should be expected. And what about our internal structure? At present opponents of the new constitution are making very successful use of the disagreements regarding this question in an attempt to bury the draft as a whole. I can imagine what is going to happen during the discussion of the progress of the economic reform and its ideology.

In order to make our lives a little bit easier at the Congress, we have decided to discuss all questions of its agenda at a session beforehand.

It will be very difficult even to unite the so-called democratic factions. The communists are now beginning to become more active. They are still called "Communists of Russia," but they are now a totally different faction, or to be more accurate a different party. It seems to me that there has been a split in the leadership of "Russia," until recently our main opponents. At any rate they are not now the organized force they once were. On the other hand the most right-wing elements of "Russia"—Baburin, Pavlov—have aligned themselves with the most right-wing of the democrats: Astafyev, Aksyuchits, and Konstantinov.

[Zuychenko] When I said to you that deputies are changing their views, I was referring above all to the latter.

[Filatov] They have created their own party. And that is very significant. As for Aksyuchits, and I have known him a long time, I cannot say his views have changed. It is just that for a long time our paths ran together, but now they have diverged. Konstantinov and Astafyev have probably changed more.

This so-called "patriotic bloc" will be quite strong at the Congress.

Rutskoy's party is also becoming more active. "Smena" is preparing very intensively for the Congress. It is probably doing so in the most skilled way, with the participation of experts.

As for "Democratic Russia," it is now beginning to muster the forces that have gone off to various structures. The faction will not prepare its own documents but will take an active part in preparing the Supreme Soviet's drafts.

[Zuychenko] So in this case the weakened "Democratic Russia" is acting as a ruling party?

[Filatov] You could put it that way. But I merely meant that there is some point in speaking of a definite regrouping of forces that is under way. We are losing some of our old allies, but gaining new ones. That is an important point.

[Zuychenko] One of the accusations against parliament is that the Supreme Soviet is now controlled from outside...

[Filatov] That is true to some extent. But not from outside. But that too is natural. Deputies are all too burdened with everyday work and simply do not have time to work properly on draft laws. We did not allow them to have assistants. The upshot is that deputies come to the session ill-prepared. Sometimes they do not have time even to read the law they are voting for. So what do they do then? They look for a point of reference. Apart from "Smena," we do not have any well organized groups that work on every draft law and tell the members of the group in advance what tactics they should use. What do the others do? Some listen—they try to get a grip on the issue—others watch their neighbors. But most watch the chairman. Especially as the people who mount the rostrum to speak by no means always enjoy prestige. Although it has to be admitted that that applies mostly to economic questions. Everything changes when a political problem is being discussed. Then everyone has his own view.

[Zuychenko] Of course, just like sport or medicine...Sergey Aleksandrovich, don't you get the impression that in part the same thing is gradually happening to the Russian parliament as happened to the Union parliament? The political situation is developing far more swiftly than the constitutional electoral cycle proceeds. Today, not for the first time, I heard someone say: "What about that guy Baburin? He does not represent anyone! Back then [when he was elected] there was one correlation of forces in Omsk. Now there is another. The people who voted for him would no longer do so!"

[Filatov] I agree. That is one of the reasons why I am so strongly in favor of the new constitution. We need a parliament that can be changed. But not in the following way: Five years pass, and everybody gets thrown out. We need normal continuity, we need to bring in additional forces. The new constitution contains the principle of renewing one-third by means of elections. This is particularly important at a time of such political instability and such swift development of events. The corps of deputies must reflect the thinking at the grassroots.

For instance, I am happy that I have not reneged on my program. But sometimes I think: Maybe my voters have long been wanting a return to the old system, but I am continuing to defend the same position as before? But only elections can show that.

[Zuychenko] Do you think the disposition of forces you have described matches what is happening in the country?

[Filatov] If public opinion polls and my own experience are to be trusted, it seemingly does. Although everything is in a state of flux. Remember when we ratified the treaty on the CIS, Boris Nikolayevich delivered a report and only six people voted against. Now, when we recently voted on including in the Congress agenda an item that calls all these agreements into question, 24 percent were in favor. This is a fluctuating process. That has always been the way things are. There have always been some who decide their positions at the very last moment under the influence of external circumstances. Sometimes there are more such people, sometimes fewer. The struggle is always for these people. And the outcome of this struggle determines the result. At the first congress there were about 250 such people. At one time, according to our calculations, the number dropped to 60.

[Zuychenko] So are there more "floaters" now?

[Filatov] Yes, although as first deputy chairman of parliament I find it awkward to use that term.

Territorial Dispute With Latvia on Agenda

LD1103161292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1435 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Mar (TASS)—The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet today adopted a statement on the decision by the Supreme Council of the Latvian Republic "On nonrecognition of the annexation of the town of Abrene and six wards of Abrene district." The decision was adopted by the Latvian parliament on 22 January 1992.

The town of Pytalovo, a rayon center of Pskov Oblast, which used to belong to Russia, was handed over to Latvia at the beginning of the 1920s and was called Abrene until 1945, when it was again included in the Russian Federation.

"Latvia's territorial claims on Russia are absolutely groundless, both historically and from the juridical point of view," the statement maintains. "Politically, they represent an attempt to exacerbate relations between our two states and to undermine the principle of inviolability of existing borders which lies at the basis of the system of collective security and cooperation in Europe."

By adopting the above resolution, the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian Republic calls into question its own decision of 14 January 1991 concerning ratification of the treaty on foundations of interstate relations between the Russian Federation and the Latvian Republic, Article 6 of which includes a pledge by the parties to the treaty to respect each other's right to territorial integrity in line with the CSCE principles, whereby the borders of CSCE states can be altered only "according to international law, by peaceful means and by agreement," the statement notes. The resolution of the Latvian Supreme Soviet in practice disavows the signature of its chairman under the Helsinki Final Act and other CSCE documents, put there on 6 December 1991 on behalf of the Republic of Latvia as part of the documenting of its acceptance as a member of the European process, the statement says.

The Russian Supreme Soviet has called on the deputies of the Latvian Supreme Soviet to reflect on the path they are taking in trying to start a border revision. The Russian parliament expressed hope that a possibility will be found "to avoid steps that are not in keeping with the nature of relations between the new Latvia and democratic Russia, and do not serve the interests of mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries."

Decision Regarding Debt Ceiling Postponed

OW1203073992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0519 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [11 March], the presidium of the Russian parliament put off the discussion of the draft resolution on the Russian foreign debt's ceiling and the bank support for foreign economic activity.

According to it, within a month, the government and the central bank shall draft proposals on the ceiling of the Russian foreign debt for 1992.

Vneshekonombank will be charghed with conducting centralized foreign-economic operations, including new credits and guarantees.

With this end in view the Russian Government and the central bank on the one hand, and the USSR Vneshekonombank on the other, are expected to conclude a corresponding agreement.

The draft resolution, which will be considered by the forthcoming sessions of the parliament's presidium, envisages the possibility of freeing Vneshekonombank from the income tax.

No Parliamentary Ties With South Africa Yet

LD1003145692 Moscow TASS in English 1318 GMT 10 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow March 10 ITAR-TASS—Although diplomatic relations have been established between Russia and South Africa, it is too early to expect parliamentary ties between the two countries, Nikolay Ogorodnikov, member of the Russian Parliamentary Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, told ITAR- TASS on Tuesday [10 March]. Ogorodnikov was on a Russian delegation headed by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev which visited South Africa late in February.

Ogorodnikov said South African Parliament remains racist in its structure and forms of representing groups of the population. It consists of three houses: for the white, coloured and Indian communities of South Africa. However, black South Africans who make up nearly 70 percent of the country's population have no representation in the country's supreme legislative body to this day, and the existing constitution seals this state of things. "We, naturally, cannot maintain relations with this kind of parliament" Ogorodnikov said. The South African Parliament is not a member of the inter-parliamentary union, and supreme legislative bodies of other countries do not maintain relations with South African Parliament.

Ogorodnikov said there is an understanding between the Russian and the South African sides that contacts at parliamentary level will be established between them when elections to the South African Parliament are held and black population is represented in Parliament.

Russian parliament is striving to follow the development of relations with South Africa through Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations. In this matter parliament acts from same positions with the Russian Foreign Ministry, Ogorodnikov said. "Although South Africa is far away from Russia, we have always been and are interested in it", Ogorodnikov said.

Prisoners' Amnesty, Death Sentence Discussed

LD0903224292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Of the 15 or so matters placed on the agenda of today's session of the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet, most discussion was caused by a draft decision on an amnesty. The draft provides for the release of 3.7 percent of those currently serving sentences, primarily those whose transgressions do not place the public in much danger. These are mainly minors, women, people who took part in the war, pensioners, and the disabled. As many as 77,000 denizens of corrective labor establishments will have their sentences considerably cut. The amnesty will not apply to those who have committed serious crimes or to repeat offenders.

Evidently, the death sentence will not be lifted for the 332 criminals on death row today. It emerged that the members of the Presidium are not unanimous either on details or the essentials. The army of unemployed which has been forecast and whose ranks would be swelled by the 20,000 people released ahead of time would lead to a new outburst of crime in Russia. It is impossible to provide them with work or somewhere to live. To avoid obliging the Supreme Soviet to make a choice between approving or not approving the amnesty in principle, it was decided to send the draft for further work in the committees and commissions.

Parliament Adopts Law on Private Detectives

LD1103161792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1332 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Mar (TASS)—A new law which was passed by the Russian parliament today permits private detective and personal security activity in the Russian Federation. In accordance with this law, private detectives and personal guards may carry out searches for missing citizens, gather information on criminal cases on a contract basis, study the market, gather information for business negotiations, bring to light the credit unworthiness of business partners, and also keep order in places where mass events are being held.

In accordance with the law "On private detective and personal guard activity in the Russian Federation", detectives do not have the right to carry out any strategic inquiry operations which come within the exclusive competence of the investigation bodies. They are granted only the right to assist the law enforcement bodies in securing law and order, including on a contract basis. Detective activities should be the main activity in which the private detective is engaged. It is not permitted to combine this with state service or with elected paid posts in public associations.

The document stresses that private detectives and personal guards are permitted to use special means and firearms, but only in particular circumstances which are precisely stipulated in the law.

Regional Affairs

Further on Popov Statement Regarding Rally

MK1103145792 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 11 Mar 92 p 1

["Statement" by Moscow Mayor G.Kh. Popov: "Rebuff the New Putschists"]

[Text] The so-called congress of USSR people's deputies is being convened 17 March. On the very same day a mass rally in support of the congress is planned outside the walls of the Kremlin.

In itself, there is nothing extraordinary about this gathering of former deputies. Why should they not analyze their own mistakes which led to the putsch and the disintegration of the USSR? In fact it is also entirely possible for there to be a rally at which the lower and middle-ranking echelons of the former party nomenklatura, whom the upper echelons did not allow to take part in the share-out of party wealth, who lost more than anyone after the putsch, and who were left more embittered than everyone else, under the smokescreen of concern for working people, stigmatize the Russian Government for taking the first steps to cleanse the country of the economic, radioactive, environmental, spiritual, and other ulcers of socialism and to create a normal human society.

But the whole point is that both the congress and the rally are putting forward slogans like: "Restore legitimate power"; "Approve the head of state and the government of the USSR"; and "Lift the ban on the CPSU." The Russian Supreme Soviet has still (unlike the president) not supported the actions of the Moscow militia 23 February. And the red-browns, made insolent and intoxicated by their impunity, have decided to openly proclaim their main aims. Purely verbal persuasion from the Russian leaders, attempts to shame and reprove them instead of instituting criminal proceedings, are only galvanizing these "yesterday's men."

We are faced with an attempt by the CPSU apparatus to return to power. Since Moscow has been chosen as the scene of operations and former deputies from Union republics cannot risk appearing in front of their electorates in Tbilisi, Kiev, Tallinn, and other capitals, what it essentially amounts to is that **under the guise of restoring the USSR, they are attempting to overthrow the constitutional system of the Russian Federation.** It is a matter of an attempt on Russia's constitution, its parliament, and its president.

Deceitful maneuvers involving a possible relocation of the congress venue will fool nobody. If enough deputies gather in Moscow the congress will be declared open immediately, even on the street outside the Kremlin walls.

The inertia displayed by the Russian Prosecutor's Office is amazing.

The passivity shown by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is amazing, although this was the body that stripped the Union deputies of their powers.

The stance taken by the mass media, which are publicizing even microscopic gatherings of those who took part in the anticonstitutional putsch, is amazing.

The indifference of other parliaments and presidents of the Commonwealth of Independent States, although the restoration of the USSR threatens their independence no less than Russia's, is amazing.

The fact that the date of these events is going to coincide with the holding of military maneuvers in the Moscow region 17 March is disturbing.

It is also disturbing that open attempts are being made to violate B.N. Yeltsin's decree banning the CPSU and to convene yet another party congress, and again, it is disturbing that the Prosecutor's Office is remaining completely passive in the face of these brazen instances of lawbreaking.

Clearly, some people in the Russian Government either sympathize with the slogans of the new putschists or are hoping to play this card at the upcoming Congress of Russian Deputies in April.

Clearly, another section of the Russian leadership has come to believe so much in the strength of its position

that it regards an attack on the Russian Constitution as an event of minor significance. But, you know, it is only the democrats at their rallies attended by many thousands of people who, despite the acute nature of the situations in which they find themselves, have always cooperated with the militia and ensured the complete safety of their supporters. But the strategy of the Leninist-Stalinist CPSU has always been to stage provocations and conflicts and sacrifice the lives of their duped supporters, entering positions of power over their corpses. Most Muscovites have nothing in common with the new putschists. Therefore the organizers are herding thousands of "goons" into Moscow from other cities. The main danger of the events of 17 March for the development of democratic reforms in Russia lies not in their mass nature, but precisely in the desire to induce any rally to make vicious attacks on the militia, in the Gapon-like readiness to drive rank-and-file members to the slaughter [Father Gapon, led Bloody Sunday march in 1905], and in the desire to shed blood at any price.

It would be impermissible to underestimate the scale of the fascist danger. It is pertinent to recall that 75 years ago, during the fateful months of the democratic February revolution, it was precisely such passivity in the face of extremists and a desire to view them through a common human prism of rights and freedoms that are profoundly alien to them that led Russia to its greatest tragedy.

And finally, there are in the Russian Government, particularly in the Supreme Soviet, those who expect to be able to "wash their hands" of the matter and shift the "dirty work" of defending Russian statehood onto Moscow City Hall, while keeping for themselves the charming role of defending human rights and criticizing the "extremist actions" of the Moscow authorities.

These sorts of political games are improper. It is a question of an attempt to stage a new putsch, of the first open attempt on the Russian Constitution.

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet must declare both the 17 March Congress and the rally anticonstitutional.

The Prosecutor's Office must immediately institute criminal proceedings over the attempt on the constitutional system, and the Russian security and internal affairs organs should act vigorously.

The Constitutional Court should acknowledge that all actions taken by the Supreme Soviet and the Prosecutor's Office are legal.

Moscow City Hall and the Moscow Government already rebuffed provocateurs and lawbreakers 23 February. Moreover, they have sufficient determination and strength to quash any attempted anticonstitutional putsch.

But the Moscow authorities cannot arrogate the right to act as sole defenders of the Russian Constitution. The Supreme Soviet needs to act first of all.

On 13 March the Moscow Government is to respond to the application to hold the rally. If the Supreme Soviet does not adopt a clear-cut stance at the 12 March session and does not oblige City Hall, Moscow City Soviet, and the Russian law-enforcement organs to rebuff the putschists (using force if necessary), then the Moscow Government will be compelled to authorize the meeting. With all the consequences that this will entail—right down to the demonstrators' plans to break into the Kremlin from Manezh Square in order to ensure that the work of the so-called congress gets under way.

The entire responsibility for this now lies squarely with the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

[Signed] Gavriil Popov, mayor of Moscow, chairman of the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms

Military Denies Maneuvers Linked to 17 Mar

LD1103154592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] The Moscow Military District press center has reported that the command staff maneuvers which began in Moscow on 9 March have nothing whatsoever in common with the forthcoming events on 17 March.

Exercises 'Ordinary' Event

PM1103174992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Mar 92 p 1

[Report by unnamed correspondent: "Commotion Over Ordinary Exercises. What For?"]

[Text] RIA channels have disseminated the statements of Colonel Vladimir Smirnov, chief of a directorate of the Russian State Committee for Defense Questions, voicing fears over the fact that the day before 17 March, for which the congress of people's deputies of the former USSR and the so-called "people's assembly" are scheduled, command and staff exercises are to take place at the Moscow Military District base. These exercises, he said, will take place in the absence of the Russian president and the CIS Joint Armed Forces commander in chief. The staffs of four armies and two divisions, 2,500 men and about 500 units of equipment, will take part in the exercises.

The same fear was heard in a statement in connection with the situation surrounding the events expected 17 March by Moscow Mayor G. Popov, which was read out Tuesday [10 March] on Moscow television.

To ascertain how founded these fears are, we turned to the Moscow Military District press center. There they expressed unconcealed surprise at this way of issuing the information, since they had notified the news agencies in advance of the command and staff map exercise. Incidentally, it began 9 March and is proceeding according to plan. The district staff is taking part in the command and staff exercise, involving two directorates and formation staffs.

As for the equipment and thousands of soldiers, here one can sense an obvious desire simply to heat the situation. The "500 units" are UAZik trucks and buses used to transport people to the combat control points, communications vehicles, and other special equipment. There is no question of any tracked combat vehicles, they are simply not needed for such exercises.

"Yesterday," Colonel I. Petrishchev stressed, "we once again gave explanations to the ITAR-TASS agency. We stressed that the exercises were planned and had been approved back last fall. Naturally, at the time no one could know that the congress would be scheduled for 17 March and that the president and his commander in chief would be on vacation at that time."

So why was it necessary to raise a din and create some kind of aura of mystery around what is, to be frank, an ordinary event? Why again, as has already happened repeatedly in the past, "attach" the military to political games, casting a shadow on them and giving grounds for a suspicious attitude toward the men in shoulder boards?

Communists Hold Rally in Moscow Park

MK1003133592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Mar 92 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Todres: "Communists Congratulate Women, But Leave Gift Until Another Day"]

[Text] People arriving at the 8 March rally at the Park of Culture were greeted by a strange but touching couple: A seller of the patriotic newspaper DEN and a young Trotskiyist from Berlin who was offering the SPARTAKOVETS [Spartacist] newsletter with the slogan "Struggle for the communism of Lenin and Trotskiy!" were working alongside each other. More people were buying DEN. The whole enterprise took place under a banner proclaiming "Socialist revolution will defeat bourgeois counterrevolution!"

The "Unity" society, "Working Moscow" [Trudovaya Moskva], and the Communists from the RCWP [Russian Communist Workers Party] were hoping when they applied to hold the rally, first, for 5,000 people and, second, for a "discussion of the position of the family, children, and teenagers."

However, no more than 1,000 people assembled: On Sunday [8 March] morning the people of the city were going about their holiday business, and moreover it was unexpectedly frosty. The main element in the discussion of family problems was congratulations to women on 8 March [Women's Day], and by way of a gift they were offered a "restored USSR." Since the men who had organized the rally were unable to get hold of this surprise by the time of the holiday, they urged women to come along and seek it together 17 March on Manezh Square.

Traditionally enough, Popov and Gaydar came in for most criticism in the speeches, although Yeltsin also came under fire. Deputy Anpilov urged people to devote "all their strength to eliminating the financial might of the brokers, middlemen, and speculators" and, in the event of success, to throw them "out of our city."

One of the placards said: "Our Minins and Pozharskiys are Makashov, Anpilov, Sergeyev and Avaliani." "Prince Pozharskiy"—General Makashov—was not there, but, at the proposal of "Citizen Minin," alias Viktor Anpilov, the rally elected as guests to attend the extraordinary Union Congress "our heroic women Svetlana Goryacheva and Tatyana Koryagina."

After celebrating in this fashion, the communists dispersed. Some enthusiasts were intending to go to the Latvian Embassy to stage a picket in defense of Rubiks and Parfenov, but only nine people and two red banners actually showed up there.

'Anxiety' Felt Over Dagestan's Muslim Groups

LD1103174692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0930 GMT 10 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gadzhiy Shamov]

[Text] Makhachkala, 10 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—A declaration on the recent events in the republican muslim community has been adopted by several social and political parties and peoples' movements in Dagestan. They express anxiety with regard to the tendency toward confrontation between muslim groups on a nationality basis that is taking shape.

As is well known, a congress of muslims took place in Makhachkala at the end of February which adopted a decision on totally replacing the leadership of the religious administration of the Dagestan muslims (RADM). During the new elections differences between the participants of the congress also took shape. The Dargin and Kumyk delegates refused to send their representatives to the council of ulema. The split became even deeper when the council of ulema elected Saygidakhmed Darbishgadzhiyev, an Avar and the vice chancellor of the Islamic University, as the RADM mufti. The representatives of the Kumyk and Dargin jam'ats [associatons], who are in opposition, regarded this decision as a planned action by the Avars to push their own people into the power structures of the RADM.

Several days after the congress a meeting took place in front of the religious administration building. There were calls at this meeting to consider the congress illegal, and to form an alternative religious administration. A situation like this is explosive and seriously complicates the social and political situation in the republic. In their declarations the representatives of the peoples' parties and movements express hopes that prudence will prevail over emotions, and wisdom will become an ally of the believers in these hard times for Dagestan.

Caucasus Forum Views Draft Constitution

PM1103163992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Mar 92 First Edition p 6

[Aleksandr Aleshkin report followed by unattributed "Commentary": "'Steering a Firm Course' Toward the Path of War"]

[Text] A session of the parliament of the Confederation of Caucasus Mountain Peoples has been held in Groznyy. The main question on the agenda was what attitude to take to the draft Russian Federation Constitution to be discussed at the upcoming sixth congress.

The parliamentarians were of one opinion: The draft constitution infringes the interests of national-state entities and must not be adopted by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. In their view, the adoption of a fundamental law like this would mean a further sharp exacerbation of the confrontation between the sovereign republic and the Russian center.

Furthermore, irrespective of the fate of the proposed draft—whether it is adopted or not—the parliament is steering a firm course toward separating the sovereign Caucasian republics from Russia. The creation of an independent Caucasus confederation, the members of parliament believe, would be promoted by the disintegration of the Russian empire. An Abkhaz representative stated outright: The most acceptable way to achieve this objective is the "Baltic scenario," the disintegration of the empire via parliamentary struggle. For example, the creation of Russian statehood must be demanded before concluding an agreement. This is because the components of the Federation—the sovereign republics—essentially have nobody with whom to conclude such an agreement: Russia as such does not exist in juridical terms.

The parliament discussed the question of convening in the very near future a congress of Caucasus mountain peoples to determine the region's fate.

President Dzhakhar Dudayev of the Chechen Republic spoke at the session. His speech was mainly devoted to relations with Russia and its leadership.

"The mass media accuse us of not agreeing to talks," he said. "But this is not so. Any attempts by us to move to peaceful dialogue backfire on us. As soon as we start believing Russia another provocation is prepared against us."

In Dudayev's view, the people in the present Russian leadership with a stake in imperial policy are the party nomenklatura entrenched in both the Supreme Soviet and the Russian president's closest entourage. "The chicken coop into which the old CPSU structure has transmogrified must be blown away!" he stated. Dudayev described as "the ultimate political provocation" the draft law on the formation of an Ingush Republic within the Russian Federation, which, in his words, the president has on his desk.

Dudayev resolutely supported the idea of the creation of an independent Caucasian state.

Commentary

After reading our correspondent's report you involuntarily recall Terentius' maxim: "People with the ability to make the false appear true are in great demand nowadays." The report talked about a session of the parliament of the Confederation of Caucasus Mountain Peoples. And here we have the first puzzle: What kind of parliament is this, what is its legal basis, who elected the confederation's parliamentarians and when?

Or take the paragraph relating to the draft Russian Constitution, whose adoption "...would mean a further sharp exacerbation of the confrontation between the sovereign republic and the Russian center." Indubitably fault can be found with the draft constitution. But for all its defects this document is a step toward constructiveness and one way out of the current impasse. And the question which naturally arises is: Which of the measures proposed by the confederation leaders at the Groznyy meeting would not bring an "exacerbation of confrontation"? The fact that they are "steering a firm course toward separating the sovereign Caucasian republics from Russia"? But will this "firm course" not lead straight to the path of war?

There was also talk at this gathering of "the disintegration of the Russian empire..." For all the vagueness of the concept—precisely what "empire" should be demolished? (in our view, any empire)—transformations are best effected in a civilized manner.

Incidentally, one possibility, as the mountain confederates rightly noted, is the "Baltic scenario." You will recall that the Georgians too adopted this as an example. But what was the result? Judging by the "Baltic scenario" you have to learn not only to shake the empire to pieces but also to avoid being hit by the falling debris. Because you have to be blind as a rooster to compare the nomenklatura communist empire with a rickety "chicken coop."

Another cause of concern, of course, was the references to "provocations" which allegedly Russia is constantly perpetrating in the struggle with Checheniya's attempts to move to peaceful dialogue. Official Groznyy's complaints and caprices vis-a-vis Moscow's peace initiatives are common knowledge. What kind of "Russian intrigues" are being referred to?

And, finally, the last point—"Russia as such does not exist in juridical terms"—and the consequent advice to "create Russian statehood." Let us be objective: Judging by the mail sent to the editors, Russians in fact are giving increasingly frequent thought not only to their statehood but also to their real sovereignty. But most letters advise that valuable experience be drawn from the "Chechen scenario" so that sovereignization under stress can be avoided and magnanimity and patience displayed.

Bugulma Denies Report on Separation Intention

LD1003204792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1901 GMT 10 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section; "Bugulma Deny an Announcement on its Separation From Tatarstan"—POSTFACTUM headline]

[Text] Bugulma, Tatarstan [dateline as received]—Boris Zakharov, administration head of the city of Bugulma, refuted an announcement of the radio station Mayak on the intention of separation from Tatarstan and a transfer to Samara region in case of a positive result of the referendum.

A telegram with this statement was sent to the leaders of the Republic of Tatarstan on March 10. Another telegram, with a demand of refutation of misinformation was sent to Yegor Yakovlev, chief of the TV and radio company Ostankino.

Kaliningrad Official Affirms Ties to Russia

LD1103223192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Report by Stanislav Chekalin from Kaliningrad]

[Text] Professor Yuriy Matochkin, the head of the Kaliningrad Oblast administration, called a news conference at which he denied claims that have appeared in the mass media to the effect that there are plans to set up an independent Baltic state in the oblast. In his view, the enclave, [word indistinct] status of the oblast, which is now surrounded by alien states, requires guardianship and protection from the Russian Federation under whose jurisdiction this territory has been and will remain. However, this geopolitical position also requires greater independence in its relations with surrounding states. There is a need to become a subject of international law, and such status is only given to republics in our country. So if a fourth Baltic state is set up, it will be a Russian republic that is an indivisible part of the Russian Federation, Professor Matochkin said.

Next followed questions from correspondents, in particular regarding the recent demand by Lithuanian leader Mr. Landsbergis to remove military formations from the oblast and also regarding Polish fears that the troops being withdrawn from it will be stationed right on their doorstep, here in Kaliningrad Oblast. Not one of the army units being withdrawn from Poland or the Baltic states will be stationed in the oblast, Yuriy Matochkin stated officially. He called Landsbergis' demand for the complete withdrawal of troops from the oblast rather unclear. The status of the Army and Navy in this border and most western oblast of Russia was defined by the Potsdam Conference and was discussed at the recent talks between Russian and Lithuanian delegations.

Another very difficult matter in relations with Lithuania was raised at this news conference. It was caused by the statement by the Lithuanian ambassador to the United States to the effect that Kaliningrad Oblast should be handed over to Lithuania. One cannot call this statement anything but irresponsible, Yuriy Matochkin said. Incidentally, this same assessment has been stated by First Deputy Foreign Minister Katkus, who is in Kaliningrad in connection with the signing of the protocol on the border. However, this is only a declaration, no more. Meanwhile, maps of Lithuania on which our oblast is already included and Kaliningrad is called not even Konigsberg but Karaliaucius are being sold at newspaper kiosks all over Lithuania. Of course this cannot fail to alarm the peple of Kaliningrad.

Belarus

Supreme Soviet Session Opens in Minsk 11 Mar

OW1103131492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1116 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A regular session of the Belarussian parliament opened in Minsk on Wednesday [11 March]. It will discuss a package of bills on military, economic, political and other issues.

The session is expected to elect a first deputy head of parliament, confirm the defense minister's appointment and radically restructure the republic's Supreme Soviet at the initiative of its chairman Stanislav Shushkevich.

Local observers say the current session may bring about various unexpected decisions due to the complexity of the present socio-political situation in Belarus: the deep economic crisis and the efforts of the opposition Popular Front to hold a referendum on no confidence in the Belarussian parliament and government.

More on Supreme Soviet

LD1103211492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniy Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Here are the details of today's session.

[Correspondent A. Zhuk] A whole package of market-related draft laws—15, to be more precise—has been included in the agenda. They are to settle the complex problems of privatization, land reform, and taxation policy. Another package of issues, the second in importance, relates to the defense sphere. The third deals with reorganizing the Supreme Soviet itself and electing the chairmen of local soviets.

It was announced at today's session that the Belarus association of deputies had been set up. Gennadiy Kozlov made a statement on behalf of the deputies who have already joined the new group of deputies.

[Begin Belarus People's Deputy G.N. Kozlov recording] What we have set up is not a faction or a bloc of deputies, but the Belarus association of deputies. The name itself, the formula itself explains the essence. The main thing now is to prevent confrontation. The situation in our republic is stable. It can be destabilized, but we do not want this. So herein lies our main goal. Therefore, naturally, to avoid any influence we have said in our statement that we are leaving any groups of deputies formed by the Supreme Soviet earlier. We have two constructive tasks: consolidation and work. [end recording]

New Group Formed

LD1103215792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] A new parliamentary group named Belarus has been formed by 77 people's deputies, the BELTA agency reports. Deputy Gennadiy Kozlov announced this at the first session of the republican Supreme Soviet, which opened in Minsk today. The basic credo of the members of the new group is the emphasis of economics over politics, the evolutionary transformation of society, constitutional democracy, and the implementation of consistent social and economic reforms.

Speaker Criticizes Authorities

LD1203111592 Moscow TASS in English 1700 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Minsk, March 11 TASS—The developments in Belarus are coming to a critical stage, Belarussian parliamentary speaker Stanislav Shushkevich admitted on Wednesday [11 March] at the opening of a Republican Parliamentary session.

Local authorities are working very poorly, reforms are blocked by former nomenclature, according to Shushkevich.

The session should adopt a new law promoting democratic elections to local bodies of power, he said, adding that land reform is being blocked under the motto of preserving collective farms. None of the collective farms faces the threat of collapse in the meantime, he stressed.

Shushkevich criticised the parliament for its mistakes, but said they are explained by lack of experience as parliamentarians are for the first time engaged in reforming and reviving the state. The referendum, which is being planned in the republic with the aim of dissolving the parliament, will stall reforms in the most crucial stage, Shushkevich believes. The parliament is capable of solving the important tasks facing the republic, he added.

Kebich on Cutting Taxes, Raising Oil Exports

OW1103230592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Belarussian Premier Vyacheslav Kebich asked the parliament on March 11 to cut down taxes on broker and exchange activity from 60 to 40 per cent, and reduce small businesses' income tax two times (to 15 per cent). He also proposed that state, collective and individual farms pay the land tax alone. He believes, besides that, that research centers and design bureaus, as well as enterprises exporting their output for hard currency, should be freed from the value-added tax.

Speaking about the energy situation, he said that it had approached the critical line. Today Belarus imports oil

from Russia at 448 roubles for a ton [as received], he said. It is not ruled out, however, he continued, that soon the price on oil would rise to 2,500 to 3,000 roubles for a ton.

Referring to Russian sources, Vyacheslav Kebich said that this year oil production in Russia would go down two times. "In view of this, the Belarussian government has turned to Kazakhstan and the Arab states as potential sources of oil," he said. Given the current energy crisis and the upcoming sowing campaign, sales of gasoline to the population may be suspended, he warned.

Government Cuts Meat Supplies to Russia

OW1103174792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Belarussian Council of Ministers ordered Wednesday [11 March] to cut meat supplies to Russia by almost 10.000 tons [as received]. As IF [INTERFAX] learned from sources in the republican government, the decision is a response measure to Russia's sudden refusal to supply 22.000 tons of fish flour for the production of combiforage in Belarus.

Government Statement on Economic Crisis Cited

LD0903232592 Minsk Radiostantsiya Belarus International Service in Belarussian 2230 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] The published statement by the Belarus Government on the current situation specifically says: The government is concerned over the acuteness of the current situation and believes it its duty to explain its essence to the citizens of the republic and express its position in relation to those most difficult processes that are taking place at the moment. The large-scale economic reforms that started in Belarus are being implemented during a period very unfavorable in all aspects.

The deep crisis that has enveloped many regions of the former Union increasingly affects our republic. Despite the agreements, reached earlier, the deliveries of oil, metal, raw materials, mainly imported from Russia, for the chemical, light, and other branches of the industry to our republic dropped rapidly at the beginning of the year. The government is taking measures to soften as much as possible the results of the destructive processes. Bilateral economic agreements have been signed with all the former Union republics. Direct links were being established at the same time with immediate suppliers of raw materials, materials, fuel, and other produce and goods required by us.

The government of the republic also persists in establishing close economic contacts with foreign countries. The government is fully aware of how drasticly the circumstances have turned and in what degree they concern vital interests of the majority of the people. The main concern of the government is to do everything to protect the population against those incredible difficulties that have fallen upon them. All social security measures are motivated by this.

More on 'Deep Crisis'

LD1103234292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Video report by correspondent A. Mayseyni; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A session [of the republican Supreme Soviet] is opening against the background of the deep crisis processes that are shaking the Belarussian economy from within. The increase of oil and gas prices to the world level which was announced by the Russian Government, though it was received with certain understanding in the republic, does not leave room for optimistic expectations and, according to the prime minister, force one to turn their eyes toward Kazakhstan and Middle East countries in search of new sources of raw materials. But how to pay for oil? The republic's budget is in a state of a dead faint.

Facts, assessments, and forecasts expressed in the parliament today give evidence to the following: 1992 is the most extraordinary year. It is obvious, leaders have stopped being favorites in the parliament. Though, on the other side, according to an opinion poll the day before yesterday, 47 percent of Belarussian citizens give preference to Stanislav Shushkevich today.

Official Says CIS Military Budget 'Unacceptable'

LD1103180492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0600 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] First Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich has said that the CIS military budget of 400 billion rubles proposed by Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov is unacceptable for the republic. The Belarussian budget for 1992 envisages defense expenditure of 8 billion rubles. The republic cannot afford to spend more on defense, he said. Mikhail Myasnikovich also refuted rumors that there are preparations for introducing a Belarussian currency.

Military Decides To Reduce Scale of Exercises

LD1103212792 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarussian 1300 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] The editorial office received the following report from the press center of the Belarussian Military District [BMD]:

Military exercises are continuing in the military units of the district. Regiments' tactical exercises are now taking place at testing grounds and in training centers. Questions of control in the headquarters structures are being inculcated.

The headquarters of the BMD, with the purpose of amplifying the tasks, made the decision to reduce the scale of the exercises because of the need to save material and financial resources. It was recommended that the automated control system resources be used more widely and that the movement of troops on the territory of the republic be restricted during the organizing of the military exercises.

Moldova

Commander Urges 'Belligerents' To Compromise

OW1103131592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1116 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Maj.-Gen. Yuri Netkachev, commander of the 14th CIS Army stationed on the left bank of the Dnestr, has urged the belligerents to look for compromise solutions and end the confrontation between the Chisinau authorities and the leadership of the Dnestr Moldavian Republic.

In his interview for Moldovan radio he said no one could make him issue an order that might lead to a repetition of the Karabakh or Yugoslav scenario in Moldova.

On Wednesday [11 March] the women's committee in Tiraspol demanded that Netkachev leave the city within 48 hours.

Deputy Commander in Chief Arrives in Tiraspol

LD1103163892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1530 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisenau, 11 Mar (TASS)—Servicemen should not interfere in political disputes—this position of the CIS Joint Armed Forces was confirmed today by Colonel General Boris Pyankov, deputy commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, at a meeting with staff officers of the 14th Army. His objective in coming to Tiraspol is to help settle the deteriorating relations between the leaders of the Dnestr republic and the Command of the 14th Army which is deployed here. The question arose from the refusal of the military to interfere in political conflict between Chisinau and Tiraspol and their intention to maintain neutrality during the recent clashes in Dubossary. Tonight the deputy commander in chief intends to meet with the Dnestr inhabitants.

Dnestr Discussed With International Groups

AU1103192492 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Report by Gabriel Ionescu from Chisinau]

[Text] Esteemed listeners, during the past 24 hours, only two cases of cease-fire violations have been registered. In accordance with the spokesman of the Ministry of Interior, last night, the so-called guardsmen opened fire against the fire station in the locality of (?Kriulenk) near Dubossary. Today, in Tichina, armed people fired at an automobile. No victims were reported.

The talks that the president of the republic, Mr. Mircea Snegur, held with the ambassador of the World Parliament for Security and Peace, General Touhami al-Tahmi, focused on the efforts to eliminate the hotbed of tension provoked by separatists on the left bank of the Dnestr. Attending the talks were the president of the parliament, Mr. Alexandru Mosanu, and the prime minister, Mr. Valeriu Muravschi. President Snegur said that the presence of the UN observers in the republic would be additional proof to the world community that Moldova is firmly advancing on the road of democracy.

The situation on the left bank of the Dnestr River was also discussed during today's meeting that the Prime Minister Valeriu Muravschi held with a delegation of the International Red Cross. The Moldovan premier said that the puppets of the former Soviet empire, the so-called guardsmen and Cossacks from the Don, intimidate the peaceful population and provoke conflicts that claim human lives. This is additional proof that the separatist, pro-imperial forces aim only at turning back the wheel of history, said Mr. Muravschi. During the talks, the guests said that they intend to examine the possibility of associating the Republic of Moldova to the Geneva Convention of 1941 and the additional protocols of 1977 as well as to expand cooperation with the Moldovan Red Cross aimed at carrying out joint activities.

Esteemed listeners, tonight a delegation of the committee of top officials within the CSCE Committee is expected in Chisinau. The diplomats will study the social, political, and economic situation in Moldova during discussions with the leaders of the republic, with members of the government and the parliament. Likewise, visits in the rayons on the left bank of the Nistru River are planned.

Here is a last piece of news from the hot regions of Moldova. In accordance with the decision adopted yesterday by the Supreme Soviet of the so-called Dnestr Republic, the separatist leaders issued a decree according to which the entire transport, including the rail transport, will be submitted to control at the separatist checkpoints, so that the raw material and goods destined for the Republic of Moldova should not cross to the right of the Dnestr. According to local observers, this is a new act through which the paralyzation of Moldova's economy is attempted.

Delegation Briefs Russian Commission on Dnestr

LD1203035192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Video report by correspondent S. Suntsov from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A delegation of parliamentary members from Moldova arrived in Moscow today. They met representatives of the Democratic Reform Movement. A news conference was held at the Moldovan permanent mission in the evening.

[Suntsov] The parliamentary delegation came to Moscow to brief Russian members of parliament on the situation in Moldova and to hand over an appeal. Alexandru Arseni, the leader of the delegation, declared that there are no prerequisites for interethnic conflicts in the republic. Laws that have been adopted are in accordance with international norms and do not infringe on the rights of national minorities. Answering a question from "Novosti" on ways of normalizing the conflict in the Dnestr region, Alexandru Arseni stated: We are prepared to discuss any proposals that do not violate Moldova's territorial integrity.

For his part, Nikolay Medvedev, chairman of a Russian parliamentary commission, admitted that a problem exists. The situation is complex, he stated, but Russia does not interfere in the affairs of sovereign states. He commented that a statement by the Moldovan parliament on the alleged interference in the affairs of the Republic of Moldova by Russian armed formations is unjustified, as is the demand for the withdrawal of Cossack formations which nobody has sent there.

Hold News Conference

OW1203072192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0519 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking about Moldova's possible reunification with Romania, Alexnadru Arseni, the leader of the Moldovan delegation which has arrived in Moscow, said at a news conference on Wednesday [11 March] that the Moldovan leaders and parliament consider Moldova and Romania to be two politically independent states whose citizens speak different dialects of the same language.

The Moldovan delegates said in this connection that the demands for Moldova's immediate reunification with Romania were being advanced by the oppositional National Front and that they did not reflect the official viewpoint.

Speaking about the situation in the Dnestr region and relations with the left bank leaders, the delegates said that Chisinau did not intend to discuss prospects for creating an autonomous entity on the left bank or for creating a federation constitng of Moldova, and the Gagauz and Dnestr republics. They said that those demands were motivated by personal ambitions of the Dnestr leaders and were irrational.

Answering journalists' questions, the Moldovan MPs [members of parliament] admitted that anti-Russian sentiments in Moldova were caused by the involvement of Cossacks in the recent events in the Dnestr region. They said that the Cossack volunteers were armed and were paid 3,000 - 4,000 roubles for their service.

Representative of the Union of Cossacks, Sergei Smirnov, who was present at the news conference, said that the question of sending volunteers to the Dniester region had never been raised and refused to have anything to do with those who "are using the Cossack uniform and symbols in their own interests".

Proceedings Instituted Against Dnestr Leader

LD1203112392 Moscow TASS in English 1044 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, March 12 (TASS)—The Moldovan prosecutor's office instituted criminal proceedings against Dnestr Republic leader Igor Smirnov, Moldovan prosecutor Dumitru Postavan said in a telegramme published on Thursday [12 March].

This measure was taken after Smirnov failed to comply with the Moldovan prosecutor's demand to release Moldovan policemen, who were taken hostage on March 2 in Dubossary by cossacks and guards.

This is not the first time that criminal proceedings are instituted against Smirnov by Moldovan prosecutor's office. He was even held custody in Chisinau for several weeks after the abortive coup attempt in August.

Dnestr Instructs Banks on Moldova Operations

LD1103235192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 11 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Dnestr region authorities have instructed all banks situated in this region in the east of Moldova to halt financial operations with the Moldovan side until a special instruction is issued.

According to a NEGA agency report, the removal of any material resources from the Dnestr region has also been forbidden for the time being.

Fuel Prices Linked to Rising Prices in Russia

LD1103160592 Moscow TASS in English 1543 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fyodor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau, March 11 TASS—Petrol and diesel prices again soared in Moldova from March 1. Now a litre of the 76-octane petrol costs 9 rubles 20 kopecks, where as the 93-octane—12 rubles.

The fuel price rise is connected with the rising of prices on petroleum products, which Moldova gets from Russia, an official of the republic's industrial amalgam informed ITAR-TASS. Beginning from December 1991 Russia has fixed an export quota of petroleum products for CIS countries, which does not coincide with earlier concluded agreements.

In January and February 1992 supplies of even this quantity of the fuel were highly erratic. For example, against the 70-80 thousand tonnes of automobile petrol and 220 thousand tonnes of furnace oil needed for Moldova's national economy, the republic received only about half of it.

Tajikistan

French Official Urges Nonproliferation Treaty

OW0403141492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1256 GMT 4 Mar 92

[From 'Diplomatic Panorama'; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] France is interested in Tajikistan's joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, said its Secretary of State for foreign affairs Alain Vivien at a meeting with President Rakhman Nabiyev in Dushanbe on Tuesday [3 March]. According to him, this should be done since Tajikistan has on its soil a uranium enriching plant, even though formally it has no nuclear weapons.

The same day A. Vivien conferred with the leaders of local opposition parties who urged the West to refrain from establishing "diplomatic and other relations with Tajikistan where power is still in the hands of the communists and where human rights are violated".

For his part A. Vivien said that his country wishes to establish relations with a state, not government. According to him "governments come and go, while the people and state remain". France, he pointed out, wants to cooperate with the people of Tajikistan who have ancient culture and centuries-old traditions.

Meets With Opposition Leaders

LD0403213892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1550 GMT 4 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] France's State Secretary Alain Vivien has met with the Tajikistan opposition leaders. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Tajikistan Democratic Party, the Rastokhez Popular Movement and the Revival of Tajikistan Islamic Party.

The Tajikistan Democratic Party cooperates with all the parties, organizations and ethnic communities in Tajikistan except the Tajikistan Communist Party responsible for the 70 years of genocide against the Tajik people, since the civil war up to the present time, Chairman of the Democratic Party Shodmon Yusupov told the meeting.

Until Nabiyev has dissolved the extraordinary Communist Parliament and called multi-party elections, the Tajikistan Democratic Party will remain a constructive opposition, Yusupov said.

Touching upon the problem of Tajikistan's Islamization and the relations with Iran, Yusupov stressed that the Democratic Party is an exponent of a secular democratic course for Tajikistan's development, of the Western and oriental civilizations not being opposed but mutually enriching one another.

Addressing the meeting, the leader of the Rostokhez Popular Movement, an MP and a PHD (economics), Takhir Abdujabbor spoke out in favor of expanding economic cooperation by creating joint ventures and bigger investments into the economy of Tajikistan.

Commenting on the position of his party, a representative of the Tajikistan's Revival Islamic Party said that the party advocates building a democratic people's state. Ninety percent of the Tajikistan citizens are followers of Islam, therefore they themselves should make their option as to the kind of state they would like to have.

Commenting on the results of the meeting the state secretary of France said: Islam is the second largest religion in France in terms of the number of its followers. We regard as very serious the question of cooperation with the Muslim peoples and states and we are prepared to do everything possible for Tajikistan to be able to use our experience in developing a secular democratic state. Vivien said his country would be interested in Tajikistan joining the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the processes of integration underway in Europe.

Secret Service Focuses on Intelligence

OW0603172392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1553 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chairman of the Tajik Security Committee Anatoliy Stroykin has said that the Tajik secret service will be oriented towards intelligence and counter-intelligence activities as a result of sweeping reforms in the former Tajik KGB.

He pointed out that structural changes have taken place in his office. A number of local offices have been abolished. About 26 per cent of the personnel have been cut; 32 per cent of senior officers have also left the service.

Anatoliy Stroykin has also said that 54 per cent of the personnel are Tajiks; 30 per cent are Russians; other nationalities account for 16 per cent. More than 15 nationalities of the former Soviet Union are represented at the republican Security Committee.

Commander on Afghan Contacts, Smuggling

OW0603133192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1128 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Interview with Major General Anatoliy Martovitskiy, commander in the Central Asian Border Protection District, by INTERFAX correspondent Andrey Lukin; place and date not given; from the "Nation and Society" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan has the third largest boundary (counting in the length of its boundary with the non-CIS republics) in the CIS after the Russian Federation and

Turkmenistan. It shares a 1421.6 km. boundary with Afghanistan and a 499.5 km. one with China. IF's [INTERFAX] Andrey Lukin spoke with Major General Anatoliy Martovitskiy, commander of the troops in the Central Asian Border Protection District, about the situation on Tajikistan's border.

Corr.: What are the problems the district command ran into after the republic proclaimed independence?

Anatoli Martovitskiy: Troop replacement, first of all. Ukraine refused to send its soldiers to serve in the republic. Russia did not send 23.5 [figure as received] of the soldiers it had pledged to. With no laws regulating military service in the CIS countries, some of the draftees say they would only serve in their home countries and misbehave—some even desert. Nor is the Tajik draft system perfect in Tajikistan itself. For example, draftees won't serve in outlying regions. But the biggest problem is that most of the draftees are in poor health or physically weak and cannot serve with the border protection troops. Corr.: Tajikistan's border is protected by two districts: Central Asian and Eastern, with a headquarters in Alma-Ata. Isn't it an awkward arrangement?

A.M.: True, situations often emerge that must be resolved at the very top of the republican authorities, while the subordination of the border protection troops to the headquarters of the districts situated in the other sovereign countries—Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan—makes them unwieldy. This takes its toll on the decision-making process in the face of a tense situation on the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The establishment of a command in Dushanbe, directly accountable to the republic and the Moscow border protection committee will address this problem. On the other hand, this would complicate the logistical support of the Kharog, Iskashin and other border units, which can, in principle, be resolved through talks with the CIS nations.

Corr.: The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border remains tense and unpredictable—patrols and helicopters are shelled and land mines are placed on the border. What do the border protection troops do to improve the situation?

A.M.: A good deal of things. Mainly, we should maintain good relations with the Afghan border area. We established contacts with some of the field commanders of rebels who can control the situation on the border. We also meet with the elders of the border tribes. With more than 90% of the terrain being under control of the rebels, we decided to keep in touch with the mujahidin. We act on the norms of international law, bilateral treaties and agreements concerning the military settlement in Afghanistan.

Corr.: Is there a lot of smuggling being done from Afghanistan?

A.M.: Yes, and smuggling is growing, in particular in the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region. Unable to supply the population with weapons, the rebels prompt locals to smuggle food and give them at times protection. Also, some of the opposition leaders view drug trafficking as a source of money.

Corr.: Will the republic liberalize the passport control?

A.M.: Two years ago the zone softened the entry regime for the students born in this area. They don't have to be registered with law-enforcement authorities. Tourists also find an easier access. So the regime has been liberalized quite a lot. Further work in this direction is being done.

Minister of External Relations Appointed

LD1103223292 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1800 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] The president of the Republic of Tajikistan, in accordance with a decree dated 11 March 1992, has appointed Comrade Lakim Kayumov as minister of external relations of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Bankruptcy, Foreign Investment Laws Passed

OW1103003792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2015 GMT 10 Mar 92

[From the "Interfax Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan on Tuesday [10 March] debated and passed laws on enterprise bankruptcy and foreign investment. The government guarantees foreign investors that terms for capital investment will be retained for ten years after expected legal changes have been implemented.

In this session the parliamentary body also plans to consider bills on state youth policy, trade unions, pensions, and other issues.

Turkmenistan

Anti-Tank Mine Discovered Near Afghan Border

LD1103180892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1037 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Znamenskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Mar (TASS)—The duty detail of an outpost of the Takhta-Bazarskiy border unit this morning discovered an anti-tank mine of foreign manufacture near the ploughed strip at a section of the Turkmen-Afghan border. The mine has been defused. Competent bodies are investigating who placed the mine and when. As ITAR-TASS was told at the press center of the Border Protection Committee, attempts to mine the Turkmen border have been made before.

German Diplomat Visits Ashkhabad 11 Mar

LD1103181492 Ashkhabad Radio Ashkabad Network in Russian 0200 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Eberhard Heyken [word indistinct] of the German Embassy in Moscow is on an official visit to Turkmenistan. At the instruction of President Niyazov, Nurmukhammedov, chairman of the committee for Science Knowledge and Social and Cultural Questions of the Presidential Council, received His Excellency Heyken yesterday. He briefed the guest about the political situation in Turkmenistan and talked about its state structure.

During the talk His Excellency Heyken said that Germany will establish diplomatic relations with Turkmenistan. Eberhard Heyken said: We attach great importance to relations with Turkmenistan. The official mission of Germany will open in the near future in Turkmenistan. We wish to lay the foundation of the future cooperation with Turkmenistan in economic, scientific, cultural spheres and other areas by coming here. During the visit, meetings were held with Heyken at the Turkmen State Planning Committee and Ministry of Culture.

Minister Discusses Agr[illegible]ement With Iran

LD1203040692 Ashkhabad Radio Ashkabad Network in Russian 0200 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Summary] Interviewed by an Ashkhabad radio correspondent, Turkmen Minister of Agriculture Ovlyakuli Khadzhakov talked about the new agreement reached between Turkmenistan and Iran that calls for an exchange of experts and students. Iran will help Turkmenistan with animal breeding and grain and fruit growing while Turkmenistan will provide Iran with expertise and technology in cotton growing. Turkmens will learn how to grow sugar beets. Experiments in Ashkhabad were successful so it is planned to grow sugar beets mainly in Mary Oblast and Tashauz. It is also planned to build a plant for sugar production in Mary after sugar beets are grown in large amounts next year.

Iranian Delegation Monitoring Agreements

LD1203070592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] A trade delegation composed of government and private sector representatives from Mazandaran Province arrived in Ashkhabad, capital of the Republic of Turkmenistan, via the Pol border post. The delegation's visit is aimed at expanding economic, trade, and cultural cooperation between Iran and the Republic of Turkmenistan.

According to an Islamic Republic News Agency report, the 33-member delegation is paying a one-week visit to Ashkhabad to follow up and monitor the implementation of agreements recently signed between Iran and Turkmenistan. The delegation will also sign new agreements.

Exchange of Cotton for Oil Planned With Russia

OW1003225892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2003 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the dress service of president Saparmurad Niyazov, Turkmenistan and Russia have agreed in Ashkhabad to exchange 150,000 tons [as received] of turkmon cotton (worth a total of $300 million) for 2,300,000 tons of Russian oil in 1992. The latter amount is expected to load to capacity the oil refinery at Chardzhou.

Uzbekistan

President Welcomes Cooperation With U.S.

OW0803141592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1257 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In a message sent to US President George Bush, Uzbek President Islam Karimov hails the US proposal that the two countries establish full-scale diplomatic relations. Karimov also emphasizes that Uzbekistan is planning to pass legislation formalizing the democratic principles forming the basis of Uzbek society and that it seeks to protect the rights and freedoms of its every citizen. He says his republic is going to ensure the unrestricted exercise of everyone's right to property, labor, and migration, guarantee the freedom of conscience, and protect the rights of national minorities.

The Uzbek president confirms Uzbekistan's willingness to develop its cooperation with the USA on the basis of mutual respect, mutual advantage, and non-interference in each other's affairs.

He also informs the U.S. President that his republic has sent in a letter to the UN stating its desire to join the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as a nonnuclear state. He says Uzbekistan opposes the production and proliferation of mass destruction weapons as well as the development of technologies and facilities for their manufacture.

Karimov Seeks Closer Relations With Turkey

LD0803174292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1545 GMT 8 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Uzbekistan wants Turkey to represent it in foreign states and international organizations. Some observers note that Tashkent addressed this request to Turkey and not to the Commonwealth of former Soviet Republics. This topic and the issues of developing economic and military cooperation were discussed during Turkish Foreign Minister Cetin's visit to Uzbekistan this week.

Uzbek President Karimov told the Turkish minister that the day will come when they will sit together in one parliament. He did not dwell in detail on this statement, which journalists report caused surprise and embarrassment in the Turkish delegation.

Ministry Corrects Newspaper Article on Turkey

OW0603214092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of Uzbekistan has pointed to mistakes in the article in the newspaper IZVESTIYA entitled "Uzbekistan Asks Turkey to Represent Its Interests Abroad". The Uzbek Foreign Ministry says the mistakes should be corrected for the sake of impartiality.

Firstly, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry said Izvestiya made a mistake by saying that the Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin's visit to Uzbekistan ended in a "promise to help Uzbekistan in training national personnel" and consent "to conclude an agreement to establish diplomatic relations in the near future". The statement says that a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey had already been signed.

Secondly, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry disagrees with the caption of the article. It says that under the agreements Turkish embassies will be representing Uzbekistan's interests only at Uzbekistan's request.

Thirdly, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry points to a mistake in quoting President Islam Karimov, who did not say that "...the time will come, when we, Turkey and Uzbekistan, will be sitting in one parliament".

The Foreign Ministry says the quotation should read "...the day will come when the parliaments of Turkey and Uzbekistan will be holding joint sessions". The Uzbek Foreign Ministry says there is a "considerable difference" between the wordings.

Republic Admitted to North Atlantic Council

OW1203073292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0519 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The extraordinary session of the Council of North Atlantic Cooperation held in Brussels has admitted Uzbekistan to this organization, a representative of Uzbekistan's Foreign Ministry reports from Brussels. In the same place, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Kingdom of Belgium signed a treaty on the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Central Asian Currency Proposal Considered

OW1203073792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0519 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [11 March], Uzbekistan's Prime Minister Abdulhashim Mutalov met with economists and representatives of the Democratic Party, Erk, and the popular movement, Birlik, to discuss the concept of introducing a national currency.

The speakers said that during the transition to a market economy, one should consider the possibility of introducing a national currency. Most of the economists believe that today one cannot rely on the "extremely unstable rouble".

Some of the participants in the meeting proposed introducing a currency for the Central Asian republics.

Republic Human Rights Committee Declares Goals

OW1003235692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2005 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Uzbekistan's Human Rights Committee met in Tashkent on Tuesday [10 March] announcing its determination to work on the basis of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. It formed special sections to deal with the problems of women and children, young people, various ethnic and nationality groups, and the elderly.

Armenia

President Meets With Stolyarov on Hostages

LD1103213292 Moscow TASS in English 2110 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan March 12 TASS—Deputy commander of Joint Armed Forces of the CIS, Major General Nikolay Stolyarov, discussed the situation in the region with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan on Wednesday [11 March].

Stolyarov told ITAR-TASS Ter-Petrosyan expressed concern over the holding of hostages in the Armenian town of Artik and said Armenian leadership had nothing to do with this crime. Ter-Petrosyan also expressed anxiety over the seisure by Azeris of the CIS munition depot in the town of Agdam and said Armenians were worried the arms could be used against them.

Journalists were told they would not be allowed to be present at talks with the culprits over hostages.

Stolyarov by phone informed Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy of the outcome of talks.

Hostages Released

LD1203075792 Moscow TASS in English 0742 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS—Ten army officers captured in the town of Artik on March 8 were released last night after talks between a group of officers from Moscow and the guerrillas who took the officers hostage.

Two hostages, Lieutenant Colonels Valeriy Reshetnikov and Valentin Kolbasyuk, will fly to Moscow together with Nikolay Stolyarov, head of the Committee for Personnel of the Commonwealth joint armed forces, who headed the group.

The guerrillas threatened to kill the hostages if they were not provided with 5,000 Grad missiles, as many mortar shells, several thousand grenade launchers shells and cartridges for sub-machine guns by March 11.

On March 10, Fedor Reut, commander of the 7th Army stationed in Yerevan, met with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan in an effort to discuss a release of the officers but no agreement was reached.

However, the first signs of success appeared a day later after talks between Stolyarov and Ter-Petrosyan, who "expressed regret over the incident and denounced the capture as an inadmissible method of solving political problems."

Stolyarov stressed that Ter-Petrosyan is not involved in the affair, adding that contacts with the guerrillas were made not through government officials.

He said the status of Commonwealth army units stationed in Armenia was not discussed during their meeting as neither side was authorised to raise this question.

Stolyarov urged all Commonwealth states to use political means to settle the conflict in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan.

Stolyarov is expected to hold a news conference upon his arrival in Moscow later in the day.

Turkey Denies Amassing Troops on Armenian Border

LD1103134792 Moscow TASS in English 1238 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS Correspondent Aleksandr Chelyshev]

[Text] Istanbul March 11 TASS—The Turkish foreign ministry has denied a report by the newspaper PRAVDA that Turkey was massing troops on the border with Armenia.

The ministry described the report about the transportation of three infantry divisions to the border with Armenia between March 6 and 8 as groundless.

Attempt Made to Capture Arsenal in Artik

Prosecutor on Situation

NC1103182692 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1500 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Recorded report by Manuk Ter-Stepanyan]

[Text] [Ter-Stepanyan] A news conference was held at the Armenian Supreme Soviet this afternoon about the Artik incident. First Deputy Prosecutor of Armenia Mikhail Grigoryan; Eduard Simonyants, deputy national security adviser to the president; (Belyoza Baboyan), chairman of the Artikskiy Rayon Soviet Executive Committee; and Artikskiy Rayon Prosecutor Martin Tadevosyan spoke.

They gave details about the incident and replied to reporters' questions. After the news conference, I asked Mikayel Grigoryan to comment.

There was an attack on the Army battalion stationed in Artik on 8 March [words indistinct]. Some of the attackers were armed and some (?were not). (?Five) died during the clash. There were losses among both servicemen and officers. A criminal investigation has been launched. The investigation is being conducted by the Artikskiy Rayon prosecutor. The military procuracy organs also are conducting an investigation. These are the facts. But there are circumstances surrounding each case, and in examining every single criminal case, it is necessary to investigate the motives involved. I believe that this case has deep roots. This is not an isolated case, and to have a proper picture of it, it is necessary to look at it as a link in a whole chain. [passage indistinct] The

fact is that the Azerbaijanis seized and plundered a military ammunition depot in Agdam, Azerbaijan. This arsenal included the best of modern military equipment. Yet, no one (?objected) to that, and there is no inclination to clarify that incident. Then the troops were withdrawn from Stepanakert and the Armenian population there is now effectively unprotected. Other, similar developments also took place. It is sufficient to say that all the Armenians were disarmed in Azerbaijan with the help of the military [words indistinct], whereas, all the Azerbaijanis were armed. This (?has created) inequality. Given the fact that Nagorno-Karabakh is engaged in a popular struggle and [words indistinct], apparently a section of the population, having no other means at their disposal, has taken upon itself the moral right to resort to such (?acts).

Naturally, it is not possible to reply to all the questions now, but the investigation is continuing and we will try to shed light on the incident. There is a witness who has attested that during a meeting in Yerevan, certain high-ranking military men (?promised) to hand over these arms, saying that when people appeared at the Army unit to obtain the arms, no resistance would be shown [words indistinct]. Just the opposite happened. [passage indistinct]

[Ter-Stepanyan] (Belyoza Babyan), Artikskiy Rayon Soviet Executive Committee chairman, commented on the situation in Artik.

[(Baboyan)] I presented the situation during the news conference. I said that 45 paratroopers have been dropped by seven helicopters. According to our information, they took positions at the military base. Soon after the news conference, I spoke with the city administration and my deputy informed me that the situation in the city is calm and the paratroopers are trying to remain inconspicuous. But the helicopters are circling over the city. That, of course, worries the city's residents. So, uneasiness prevails in the city [words indistinct]. But (?I think) that the paratroopers will take no action.

Government Statement Issued

NC1103160192 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1500 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Statement by Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the Armenian Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Armenian Republic Government; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The seizure of the Transcaucasian Military District's arsenal in Agdamskiy Rayon, Azerbaijan, and the fear that arsenal could be used against the peaceful population of Nagorno-Karabakh, have sharply exacerbated the political situation in Armenia.

A group of citizens, having come to an agreement with high-level military officials, tried to seize the arsenal of one of the CIS Joint Armed Forces' units stationed in Artik on 8 March. But, at the last moment, the military opened fire, and both civilians and military servicemen were killed.

The president of the Armenian Republic, the Supreme Soviet, and the government express their condolences to the relatives and kin of the citizens and servicemen who died as a consequence of this incident, and inform that a criminal investigation has been launched into it and that the guilty will be punished with all the severity of the law.

Ovanesyan Talks on Nagorno-Karabakh With Dumas

LD1103223792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1818 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Paris, 11 Mar (TASS)—No settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem is possible without the participation of representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh itself, which is populated predominantly by Armenians. Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovanesyan stated this during a meeting today with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. Dumas agreed that any political settlement "must take into account the wishes of the inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh."

Talks Held With Nakhichevan Official

LD1103220592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Our meeting was marked by an atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust—this is how Babken Ararktsyan, speaker of the Armenian parliament, described his meeting on Tuesday [10 March] with Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Nakhichevan republic. According to Aratskyan, this time his counterpart has shown understanding regarding questions that he had previously categorically rejected. In particular, the Nakhichevan republic has expressed willingness to ensure transit of freight from Armenia to Iran. The Nakhichevan republic, which is part of Azerbaijan, is separated from it by a strip of Armenian territory. Geydar Aliyev, former leader of the Azerbaijan Communist Party and a native of Nakhichevan, became the leader of the Nakhichevan parliament in 1991.

Azerbaijan

Envoys Offer Peace Plans for Nagorno-Karabakh

Iran Wants Peacekeeping Force

LD1103212392 Moscow TASS in English 2103 GMT 11 Mar 92

["Iran's New Mediation Plan for Nagorno-Karabakh Crisis"—TASS headline]

[Text] Tehran March 11 ITAR-TASS—The Islamic Republic of Iran, acting as a mediator between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, put forward a new plan to establish peace in the Transcaucasus. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati informed today journalists that Iran wants to form multinational peacemaking forces, which will consist of Iranian subdivisions, and send them to the zone of conflict, reported IRNA [Iranian Republic News Agency] News Agency. [sentence as received] After the deployment of the forces between the warring sides, Tehran will try to find a peaceful solution to the conflict, the minister said.

Velayati held today talks in the Iranian capital with the Azeri delegation, at the end of which he said that Azerbaijan has accepted the Irani proposal in principle. He hopes to receive Yerevan's reply during the forthcoming visit of an Armenian delegation to Tehran.

Turkey on CSCE Role

LD1103201292 Moscow TASS in English 1951 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—Turkey has proposed its own plan for peaceful settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh. ITAR-TASS received the memo from Turkish Embassy in Moscow on Wednesday [11 March]. According to Turkish plan, both Armenia and Azerbaijan shall invite experts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE] so as to assign a special mission to monitor the ceasefire. The Security Council chairperson should call the conflicting parties to stop hostilities immediately.

According to the plan, Armenia and Azerbaijan should pronounce their determination to resolve the conflict by peaceful means.

British on Settlement

LD1203112692 Moscow TASS in English 1917 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent Anar Kadirli]

[Text] Baku March 11 TASS—Douglas Hogg, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, and Roderic Braithwaite, British ambassador to Moscow, came on a visit to Baku. At today's meeting with chairman of the Azeri Supreme Soviet, Yakub Mamedov, the British diplomats said the main purpose of their visit was to discuss an issue on their intermediary mission in the peace settlement of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Azerbaijan.

People's Front Plans To Demand Power Transfer

OW1103192092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1116 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] MPs [members of parliament] from the People's Front of Azerbaijan (PFA) plan to demand at a special session of the republic's parliament that "the dismantlement of the system of command administration be completed", the press center of the PFA told IF [INTERFAX].

In particular, they intend to demand that all power be transferred to the National Council (mini-parliament) and the presidency be abolished in the republic.

Moreover, the opposition will call for the immediate implementation of laws passed by the National Council with respect to a settlement in Karabakh. They include, inter alia, laws on the protection of the state border, on the disarming of illegal paramilitary groups, and the law on the republic's armed forces which provides for the formation of a national army.

The PFA plans to hold a mass rally outside the building of parliament on March 11, the PFA's press center told IF.

Coordinating Council Created

LD1203050592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0240 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, 12 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—A coordinating council to be composed of five political figures of different orientation may become Azerbaijan's supreme executive body of power. This is reported today by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA quoting circles close to the leadership of the republic's People's Front.

According to the paper's information, agreement on the creation of the new body was reached as a result of several days of consultations held behind closed doors between the parliamentary majority and the opposition faction "Independent Azerbaijan".

Among those who are to form part of the new leadership of the republic the paper names Abulfas Elchi-Bey, chairman of the People's Front; Speaker of Parliament Yakub Mamedov, acting president of Azerbaijan; Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov; Rakhim Gaziyev, commander of the staff for the defense of the town of Shusha in Nagorno-Karabakh; and former Azerbaijan party boss Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Supreme Majlis of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

Popular Front Head Says Republic Not in CIS

LD1103235292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2230 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] The main political force in Azerbaijan today is the Popular Front [PFA]. Arif Gadzhiyev—chairman of the PFA supreme representative organ, the Majlis—has

declared. However, he pointed out in an INTERFAX interview, the republic continues to be governed by the official power, Yakub Mamedov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov.

Gadzhiyev said that the PFA took a decidedly dim view of the documents signed by Ayaz Mutalibov, the republic's former president, within the framework of the CIS. In his view, Azerbaijan cannot, in general, be regarded as having joined the CIS, since the Commonwealth documents, signed by the republic's highest officials, have not been ratified either by the Supreme Soviet or by the national council, the smaller parliament, of Azerbaijan.

At the same time, the PFA leader stressed the need to initiate and develop bilateral economic ties with the CIS states.

Snow Halts Offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1103151392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1350 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS corespondent]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Mar (TASS)—Spring snowfalls of unprecedented severity in Nagorno-Karabakh have compelled subdivisions of the Azerbaijani Army to halt large-scale offensive operations against the Armenian settlements on the region's eastern border because it is impossible to move along the roads. This has been confirmed by a report received here from the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet press center.

However, artillery shelling of Nagorno-Karabakh's towns and villages is continuing. The Armenian village of Karmirgyukh, Askeranskiy rayon, was shelled from the direction of Shusha by three salvoes from Grad devices today; some of the residents of Stepanakert [Khankendy] had moved to Karmirgyukh in the hope of fleeing artillery shelling. There are casualties and destruction in the village.

According to updated figures from the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic internal affairs directorate, five people died and 23 people were wounded on Tuesday [10 March] as a result of shelling of Stepanakert and a number of other settlements.

Situation Updated

OW1103145292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent has learned from the self-defense headquarters in Nagorno-Karabakh, nearly 100 trucks with reinforcements and ammunition arrived from Azerbaijan on Tuesday [10 March] in the city of Shusha, the last Azeri-populated center in Karabakh. On their way back the trucks evacuated all women and children from the city, leaving it unpopulated and turning it into a stronghold of the Azeri army which has continuously shelled Stepanakert (Khankendy) with rockets.

Three people died as a result of Tuesday night's artillery and tank gun attack on the Armenian village of Karachinar in the Gheranboi (formerly Shaumyanovsk) district of Azerbaijan. The district center Shauayanovsk came under fire on Wednesday morning.

A full salvo was fired on Stepanakert from a Grad launcher on Wednesday afternoon. The number of casualties and the scale of destruction is yet to be established.

According to the information center LUR, a general meeting of self-defense servicemen in the district center of Askeran in Nagorno-Karabakh warned the presidents of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, as well as the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers, that all CIS servicemen "agreeing to serve in Azerbaijan's army fighting against the Armenian people will be shot at the spot as mercenary killers, regardless of their ethnic origin."

The district police departments of Shusha and Agdam have meanwhile told IF that the two cities came under fire from GRAD and ALAZAN missile launchers on Armenian territory, which resulted in 4 people killed, 7 wounded and 8 residential buildings destroyed.

There were fire attacks also on population centers in the Gheranboi, Ter-Ter and Agdam districts on Azerbaijan. In the Agdam district, two people were killed and 6 wounded as the villages of Shelli and Papravend came under fire.

IF's correspondent quotes the Azeri interior ministry as saying that nearly 180 Armenian militants and ammunition were flown on five combat helicopters to the village of Chapar in the Agderin district on Wednesday morning. Armed Armenian units crossed the border in the Lachin and Kubatly districts on Tuesday night to attack, with the support of armored vehicles belonging to the 7th CIS army stationed in Armenia, the villages of Aligulishagy and Nekhtiakhmedli, where 3 people died as a result.

The Armenian defense ministry has refuted the report about the violation of the Azeri border by Armenians.

Lebanese Citizens Involved

LD0703111692 Moscow TASS in English 1033 GMT 7 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladislav Zhadyayev]

[Text] Beirut March 7 TASS—The Lebanese foreign minister said Lebanon had unconfirmed reports testifying to the involvement of some Lebanese citizens, who have experience in warfare, in the conflict around Nagorno-Karabakh.

Speaking to local and foreign journalists, Faris Buwayz said some Lebanese representatives were participating in

the hostilities both on the side of Armenian armed groups and the Azerbaijan armed forces.

Buwayz said he did not know who are they and how many of them were involved in combat operations. "In any case, I can assure you that actions by these Lebanese citizens do not have absolutely any relation to Lebanon's policy," Buwayz emphasised.

Turkish Medical Aid Received in Nagorno-Karabakh

NC1003200192 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Azerbaijan Red Crescent employees have begun to transfer foreign aid material the republic has received to the mountainous region in Karabakh. A Turkish Airlines transport plane has brought pharmaceutical drugs and medical material from Istanbul and Ankara to Baku. A group of Turkish doctors and medical employees were also received at Baku Airport. The Turkish Ministry of Health has sent them to give medical aid to the Azerbaijanis who have been wounded in the disputed territory of Karabakh.

Meanwhile, the Azerbaijan Airlines Company has disclosed that the medical supplies sent from the UAE [United Arab Emirates] to Azerbaijan are being unloaded at present.

Two more aircraft are expected from Turkey and Iran to deliver medical supplies and surgery equipment this evening. The International Red Cross is expected to deliver transport vehicles and medical supplies from Geneva to Azerbaijan on 11 March. The Azerbaijan Ministry of Health has assessed the delivery of the said vehicles as the beginning of a wide-ranging international humanitarian aid program for Azerbaijan.

Canada Sends Assistance

PM1103112992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Mar 92 First Edition p 7

[Report from INTERSEPT roundup under the "Radio Digest" rubric: "International Canadian Radio"]

[Text] A three-tonne consignment of medical aid from Canada has arrived in Azerbaijan. It is the first such consignment of Western aid destined for Nagorno-Karabakh, where there is an acute shortage of medical supplies and equipment. Canada will send medical aid to Nagorno-Karabakh worth a total of 250,000 Canadian dollars.

Defense Ministry Owns Former USSR Property

LD1103164992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1504 GMT 11 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Baku—The Azerbaijani defense minister: Sales, acquisition or appropriation by individuals and organizations of property which belonged to the former USSR Armed Forces are illegal. An address by the republican defense minister, Major General Takhir Aliyev, published on March 11 by the republican mass media, has this to say, in particular: In accordance with the law on the armed forces of Azerbaijan passed by the republican Supreme Soviet and other legal acts, material and technical assets of the former USSR Armed Forces, including buildings, equipment and land lots have become property of the republican Defense Ministry.

Pursuant to the move, changes of flats, as well as sales, acquisition of military equipment, transport vehicles, buildings and land lots are illegal. Such transactions will be ruled null and void and cancelled without accepting any complaints, said the Azerbaijani defense minister.

Georgia

Sigua Says New Elections Possible in June

LD1103215192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Video report by correspondents M. Gongadze and K. Tochilin from Tbilisi on the return of Eduard Shevardnadze, including recorded remarks by Tengiz Sigua, member of the Georgian State Council Presidium—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze is returning to high politics. As you know, he was elected chairman of the Georgian State Council at a joint sitting of the provisional government leaders and members of the Political Consultative Council on 10 March.

[Gongadze] The Political Consultative Council under the provisional government, which has already changed its own status, will determine the composition of the new legislative body. The envoys of 30 political parties and organizations unanimously approved the appointment of Eduard Shevardnadze to the post of chairman of the Georgian State Council. The Council's Presidium comprises Jaba Ioseliani, Tengiz Kitovani, Tengiz Sigua, and Eduard Shevardnadze.

[Tochilin] The State Council will be made up of members of the Political Consultative Council under the provisional government, representatives of the public of the Abkhaz and Adzharian Autonomous Republics, and national minorities living in Georgia. The powers of Georgia's Military Council have been terminated as a result of the establishment of the State Council.

[Sigua] I believe that it was a very necessary, correct, and timely step; I hope that the State Council will assume very important functions until the new elections, which, in our opinion, will be held in June.

[Tochilin] It is expected that the State Council will set up a kind of consultative body representing parties and organizations. The new supreme authority enjoys an executive function and has the right to issue decrees. The draft of the new provisional system of government was elaborated by the Democratic Union of Georgia, whose honorary chairman, incidentally, is Eduard Shevardnadze.

[Sigua] Eduard Amvrosiyevich's return to his homeland and his active participation in political and economic life will be a significant help to the republic.

[Tochilin] One way or another, the state structures of government have been adapted to find a place in them for Shevardnadze. Why? The republic needs a high profile politician. By the way, Georgia has not yet joined the United Nations; an influx of Western credits and investment is expected as a result of Shevardnadze's recent private visit to America. Political parties and organizations, which have nothing in common with each other have now begun to gather around Shevardnadze. How long this will continue evidently depends on Shevardnadze himself, the man who has inherited a republic in a postwar depression.

Shevardnadze Returns; Power Structure Changes

LD1203102592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0600 GMT 12 Mar 92

[IPRINDA correspondent Tengiz Ablotia; Tbilisi report]

[Text] A transfer of power has, in effect, taken place in Georgia. The Military Council that has ruled the republic for about three months has laid its powers aside and handed them to the State Council, presided over by Eduard Shevardnadze, thereby effecting the transfer of power from the military to a civilian government. The need for this act was understood by everyone, as power could not remain with the Military Council. But there was no one to whom it could be transferred; the provisional government, led by Tengiz Sigua, was merely an executive body; the Consultative Council, as was clear from its name, was not engaged in legislation and its activities were confined to making recommendations.

After Eduard Shevardnadze's return to Georgia, political circles proposed the creation of a governing body in which the former USSR foreign minister would be the leading figure. Two drafts, which actually differed little from one another, were submitted for consideration by the Consultative Council and the republic's political parties. Following discussions, it was decided to create a State Council from the parties represented in the Consultative Council, after which the latter announced that it was dissolving itself. The council will also include representatives of the public, the intelligentsia, ethnic minorities and the autonomous formations. The State Council will assume the functions of a legislative body—a form of unelected parliament formed to take account of the interests of all politically active groups among the population.

A presidium, with each member having the right to veto the adoption of all decisions, is being set up under the State Council. This will help to ensure the democratic nature of the newly created state structures. The State Council's main purpose will be to stabilize the political and economic situation in Georgia, and to hold new parliamentary elections, which are scheduled for June.

Telegrams of congratulation to Eduard Shevardnadze are now arriving from various Western countries, as well as proposals for cooperation with the new organ of supreme power in Georgia.

Shevardnadze Meets Iranian Deputy Minister

LD1103184992 Tehran IRNA in English 1746 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, March 11, IRNA—"Meeting Imam Khomeyni was an important historical event of my life," recalled the head of Georgia's State Council, Eduard Shevardnadze in Tbilisi today.

Shevardnadze, who in March 1989, as foreign minister of the former Soviet Union had carried his president's reply to the prophetic epistle written by the father of the Islamic revolution to Mikhail Gorbachev, reminisced those memorable moments today in his meeting with Iranian Deputy Minister of Roads and Transport Saeyyed Nejad.

True to the late imam's prediction, communism is now a thing of the past, and Shevardnadze who on Tuesday [10 March] took over the leadership of the State Council of his newly independent homeland, told Saeyyed Nejad that Georgia was interested in relations with the Islamic Republic.

Saeyyed Nejad said the "historical and cultural background as well as geographical proximity warrants expansion of ties between Iran and Georgia."

The Transcaucasus state of Georgia, was part of the Persian empire during the Safavid and early Qajarid eras, prior to its occupation by tsarist Russia.

Later in the day, Saeyyed Nejad who arrived in Tbilisi last night on his tour of several former Soviet republics, met with Tengiz Sigua the acting prime minister of Georgia.

Sigua expressed hope that the historical and geographical bonds between Tbilisi and Tehran would accelerate promotion of bilateral ties.

"The mutual understanding existing between Georgian and Iranian officials is sure to surmount all obstacles in the way of expansion of bilateral relations," he added.

Situation Stabilizing; Shortages Remain

LD1103215392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Video report by N. Kandiashvili from Tbilisi; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] By decision of the provisional government and the coordinating council, a state council was set up yesterday and Eduard Shevardnadze was elected its chairman.

Geli Lanchava, the city's commandant, stated today that there had been no shooting over the last few days and that the situation was stabilizing. The subway is not working for the tenth day running. Studies have been resumed at schools and higher educational institutions. Some factories and businesses are operating.

But, in spite of some improvements in the stabilization of the situation, counters in shops and pharmacies are empty. The inhabitants of Tbilisi are worried by political and economic instability, by being forced to walk, and by the sharp shortages of food. But with Shevardnadze's arrival, hopes are high for a speedy settlement of the conflict in (Samochablo) and the stabilization of the situation in Georgia.

Dissolved Parliament To Meet in Groznyy

OW1103185992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1116 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] CHECHENPRESS, the only news agency distributing official information about developments in the Chechen republic, reported on Wednesday [11 March] that the former body of the Georgian Supreme Soviet would hold a session in Groznyy on March 12-13. The Georgian Military Council is known to have dissolved the parliament after the deposed president Zviad Gamsakhurdia left the besieged government building in Tbilisi.

According to IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent, about two-thirds of the former body of parliament are already in the Chechen capital for the planned session. [passage omitted].

Gamsakhurdia To Attend

LD1203090992 Moscow TASS in English 0819 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 12 (TASS)—Ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia will attend a session of the Georgian Parliament which will open in Groznyy on Thursday [12 March], the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA daily reports quoting Chechen Minister of Information Movladi Udugov. The main item on the agenda will be the situation in Georgia after the appointment of Eduard Shevardnadze chairman of the State Council of Georgia, a new body of supreme power in the republic. Two thirds of Georgian deputies arrived in Groznyy by Wednesday, Udugov said.

Missiles Destined for Nagorno-Karabakh Seized

LD1203105692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Yesterday a car carrying 32 air-launched missiles and a launcher was detained on its way out of Tbilisi. The car belonged to servicemen of Azerbaijani nationality who are serving in an aviation unit of the Tbilisi garrison. People in the car showered militiamen with grenades and wounded three people. Two servicemen who were wounded by reciprocal fire died on the way to the hospital.

According to preliminary information from the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs, the missiles were designated for the Azerbaijani armed formations in Karabakh and were stolen from ammunition dumps of the military unit. This report is being published in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA today.

Abkhazia Getting Ready for Shevardnadze Arrival

OW1103230492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On March 11, representatives of the Georgian population of Abkhazia (an autonomous entity in Georgia) discussed in Sukhumi the draft plan for establishing a democratic party of Abkhazia. This party is expected to prepare the local population for the arrival of Eduard Shevardnadze, who was elected head of the Georgian State Council on March 11.

According to unofficial sources, he will arrive in Sukhumi next Saturday [14 March]. His visit may not occur, however, given the splash of activity on the part of the supporters of Gamsakhurdia. In Sukhumi, meetings in support of the deposed president have continued for two days now. The demonstrators urge to stop Shevardnadze and even burnt his effigy on Wednesday [11 March].

Adzharian Deputies Protest CIS Military Acts

AU0903181592 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Address by 18 Adzharian Supreme Council deputies and six parties of the Coordinating Council of Political Parties and Organizations in Adzharia to Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces, and Colonel General Valeriy Patrikeyev, commander of the Trancaucasian Military District; place and date not given]

[Text] A group of deputies of the Adzharian Autonomous Republic Supreme Council and the Coordinating Council of Political Parties expresses its concern at the

[Tochilin] It is expected that the State Council will set up a kind of consultative body representing parties and organizations. The new supreme authority enjoys an executive function and has the right to issue decrees. The draft of the new provisional system of government was elaborated by the Democratic Union of Georgia, whose honorary chairman, incidentally, is Eduard Shevardnadze.

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